CLASSIFICATION OF WORDS

LSAngeles, MDC
It was a nice day. Down by the nice stream, a nice bird sat making nice sounds. The nice sun was up in the nice sky. “Oh, how nice to have such a nice day all to myself,” I thought.

Then, a bad bird came along. From the shape of its bad wings and its bad legs I knew it came with bad news. It carried a bad sort of bag over its wing. “Who knows what bad things it had inside?” I thought.

The nice bird soon stopped making nice sounds, and flew away fast. I should have done the same. The bad bird came and landed near me. Even though it was a bad bird, it was nice to have a friend. I took the bag off his wing and inside was a bad message. It said, “Bad adjectives make for bad writing. You had better make them nicer.” That meant, I knew, I had to do lots of work.
HOW ARE WORDS CLASSIFIED?

- Localism (or recognition or pronunciation)
- Colloquialism
- Word contraction
- Slang
- Abstract words
- Concrete words
- General words
- Specific words
- Formal words
- Synonymous words
- Homonymous words
- Omnibus words
- Jargon or technical words
- Archaic words
- Obsolete words
- Hackneyed or trite words
- Antonyms
• Knowing the different classification of words, you learn to choose your words.
• This improves your **diction**.
• **DICTION** is the choice of words with regards to correctness, cleanliness, or effectiveness to attain precision in writing.
LOCALISM

• Refers to the word used and understood in a particular region or section. It can also be called **recognition** or **pronunciation**.

• Examples:
  • Rustler-cattle thief
  • Doggie/doggy-motherless calf
  • Flat-apartment
COLLOQUIALISM

• It is a conversational word or phrase permissible and often indispensable to an easy informal style of speaking and writing.
• It is not substandard or illiterate.
• It is an expression more often used in speech rather than in writing and more appropriate in informal than formal speech.
COLLOQUIALISM

• Examples:

• Wise, agree, help, prone, break, clear, beggar, end surrender, secret, mad, mean, fuss sure swap
• This classification also falls under colloquial words.
• Examples:
• I’m, won’t, we’re, haven’t, don’t, doesn’t
SLANG

• Slang is a label for highly colloquial words.
• It is defined as a language comprising recently coined and frequently short-lived terms which are unacceptable in formal English usage and are often fanciful, bizarre, odd or exhibiting fancy humor.
• It is defined also as a result from an intentional mispronunciation of words.
SLANG

• Hass-house
• Doug-dog
• Heppy-happy
• Bum-vagabond
• Tummy-stomach
• Wee wee-urinate
• Broke-without money
• Classy-fine or excellent
ABSTRACT WORDS

• These are those words that cannot be seen but can be felt. They do not express concrete ideas.
• Examples:
• Love, fear, pain, hunger
CONCRETE WORDS

• These are words that employ the use of the five senses to identify them.
• Examples:
  • Table, people, house, building
GENERAL WORDS

• These are words that refer to a general referent or class or referents. These words convey a less clear meaning to readers than specific words do.

• Examples:
  • Plant, animal, people, flowers, teachers
SPECIFIC WORDS

• Words that point to a particular class or referents.
• Examples:
  • girl-Andrea
  • insect-spider
  • fountain pen-Parker
SYNONYMOUS WORDS

• These are words having the same meaning
• Examples:
  • Petty-small
  • Pretty-beautiful
  • Huge-big
HOMONYMOUS WORDS

• These are words having the same sound but different in meaning.

• Examples:
  • Fare-fair
  • Rice-rise
  • Right-write
  • Nose-knows
  • Coarse-course
OMNIBUS WORDS

• These are words whose meanings are general or inclusive. These words are impediments to precise writing because they do the work of what other words do. They can mean many things.

• Examples:

• Thing, cute, nice, fine
JARGON OR TECHNICAL WORDS

• Refer to words or specific language of a particular occupation or group.

• Examples:
  • Engineering-slide rule, plate, T-square
  • Accounting-ledger, debit, credit
  • Medical Surgery-appendectomy, ligation, hydraulic pressure
  • Law-suspect, criminal, appeal, Supreme Court, case, culprit, balance
ARCHAIC WORDS

• Old words rarely used except as preserved in religious and legal purposes.
• Examples:
  • Thou-you
  • Amongst-among
  • Thee-you
  • Thy-your
OBSOLETE WORDS

• Words which are no longer in use
• Examples:
  • By and by—later
  • Whilom—for a while in a minute
HACKNEYED OR TRITE WORDS

- Words that are no longer fresh. They are worn out or old fashioned and have been overused for years. These words no longer attract attention nor incite interest. They do not suggest originality.

- Examples:
  - Drastic step
  - Go down in history
  - Brilliant performance
  - Round of applause
ANTONYMS

• Words with opposite meanings
• Examples:
  • Big-small
  • Ugly-beautiful
  • Stout-tall
  • Fat-slim
  • Dull-bright