

The target vocabulary for this section are the adjectives ambiguous, hideous, aesthetic, myriad and concise.

So to kick off the course we're going to look at five adjectives.

Let's look at word number one.

Words

number one is 'ambiguous' which means having more than one meaning. For example, 'you have to try hard to

understand the novel.

Many parts of it are ambiguous so it can be confusing.

In this example I said many parts of the novel are ambiguous.

This means that some sentences could have more than one meaning depending on your angle, depending on

how you look at it.

Let me give you another example.

Imagine I say, "Let's go to the bank.

The word bank has two meanings in English.

One meaning is the place where we go to deposit and withdraw money but another meaning of bank is the

place beside a river.

It's called a river bank.

'let's go to the bank' is ambiguous because it has more than one possible meaning.

Now let's look at word number two.

Word number two is 'hideous' which means very ugly or bad.

For example, look at that hideous new building.

What architect designed that?

In this example the person is looking at a very ugly building and he's saying "oh what a hideous building."

Who designed that ugly building? So, hideous is a very strong adjective.

You're saying something is very ugly or very bad.

Another example would be imagine my friend is dressed in a suit but the suit is orange.

His tie is blue and his shoes are white.

That is a very strange colour combination: blue, orange and white. So I can say to my friend "oh my goodness.

That is the most hideous colour combination I've ever seen!"

Hideous means very bad or very ugly.

It's quite a strong adjective.

Let's look at word three now.

Word number three is 'aesthetic' which means relating to beauty and appearance. For example, people are

attracted to the aesthetic appeal of the car rather than its performance.

In this example the person is saying, "look, people don't buy this car for its fantastic performance.

What they buy it for is its beauty, its appearance, so its aesthetic appeal is why people like it.

Another example of aesthetic would be: imagine a woman goes to buy a new handbag.

But she doesn't really care about what it looks like.

She just wants her handbag to carry things.

She doesn't care if it's a designer handbag or if it looks beautiful.

She's going to buy a bag for its practical purpose rather than its aesthetic appeal.

So she doesn't care about the beauty of it.

She only cares about the practicality of it that it can carry things. She doesn't care what it looks like.

So she doesn't care about the aesthetics of the bag.

Now let's look at word number four.

Word number four is 'myriad' which means very many.

For example, you'll enjoy the myriad museums, monuments and attractions in the city.

In this example, I'm emphasizing that the city has very many museums and many monuments and many many attractions.

So 'myriad' means very many. We are emphasizing the number.

Another example would be: imagine on a clear night you look up into the sky and you see hundreds of stars.

So you can say "Wow! Look at the myriad stars in the sky.

Isn't it beautiful?" With myriad, you're emphasizing the large number of something.

Now let's look at the last word.

Word number five is 'concise' which means giving a lot of information in few words.

For example,

Even though John's presentations are a bit boring they are concise.

Here I'm saying, "Look, John's presentations are a bit boring but the good thing is they are concise."

Concise is usually a positive meaning, it means we are using a few words.

It's very short but you're giving lots of information in those few words.

Another example of concise is a concise book.

Imagine a book on world history.

If you give a full account of world history the book would be humongous.

However, if I give a concise account of world history, the book will be relatively short but it will give

lots of information in those few words. So concise is usually a good thing, it doesn't mean too short.

It's a good meaning.

Now you need to move on to the pronunciation training where you will see a closeup of my mouth and you'll

be able to master

each word's pronunciation very very accurately.

Let's begin.

The wording of the contract was ambiguous so I didn't sign it.

I'll have to consult my lawyers about it.

John wore a pink suit with a blue shirt and an orange tie.

It was the most hideous colour combination I've ever seen.

Because the houses need to be built as soon as possible to cope with the housing shortage, an aesthetic design was not a priority.

The new boss has been brought in to sort out the myriad problems with the company.

People are hopeful he will do a good job.

The presidential candidate delivered a clear and concise speech overshadowing her rival's long, rather

dull talk.

The sentence, 'He went to the bank' is ambiguous.

It could mean a river bank or the place where we deposit money.

The movie is about a hideous monster that chases people around the city at night.

It was rather scary.

What do you think of my painting Miss Riley?

Its aesthetic qualities are clear to see.

Fantastic work.

I enjoy music in all its myriad forms.

One of my favourite things to do is learn a new instrument every few months or so.

In his latest book Michael Smith gives a concise account of world history without feeling like you've

missed anything important.