

Word of the Day – **Prospective**

Transcript

Hi everyone! Today's word of the day is **prospective**. This word is an adjective and is only used before nouns. It tends to be used in more formal settings especially in business language.

Prospective means something that has potential or is likely to happen. It is always used in reference to the future. The opposite word is **retrospective**, which means to look backwards at events that already occurred. Be sure not to confuse **prospective** with the similar sounding word, **perspective**, which has a completely different definition.

The most common way to use **prospective** is as an adjective describing a person. For example, someone can be a **prospective** student, a **prospective** bride, or a **prospective** employee. Each of these people has the potential to change their status or have definite future plans. Interestingly, if you search the internet for the word **prospective**, the most common phrase that appears is **prospective** student. Each university is trying to recruit students to apply for admission.

Prospective is also used as a medical term during clinical trials. Instead of looking at a patient's history and symptoms, **prospective** clinical trial participants are chosen first to receive a certain drug or for another reason and then observed for a following time period.

But in day to day language, you might say something like this:

"This week is going to be busy! I have three interviews with prospective employers."

In this phrase, your future employer has not yet been determined but there is potential for any of the interviews to be successful. You could replace the word "employers" with "girlfriends," "boyfriends" – for blind dates – or you yourself could be the employer who is interviewing **prospective** employees.

If you would like more information, or the full transcript, please visit our website. Thank you very much and have a great day.