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Hi everyone, Alexis Avila, founder of Prepped and Polished LLC, here in Boston, Massachusetts. Now one of the trickiest sections on the independent school entrance examination, the ISEE test, especially for non-native English speakers, is the synonym sections, but with a bit of help learning tricks and strategies, you can easily make the ISEE synonym section your most improved section.

Now the first thing that you want to do, is you want to come up with the definition of the word before you look at the distracting answer choices. So it's okay if you don't know the exact dictionary definition of each synonym, as long as you can get the general essence of the word you'll be in great shape. So you do that by looking at the word's roots. So in the word excavate, there are two roots in this word, ex means exit, and cav, root of cav means hull. Now if you don't know the roots of a word, you can still get the question right, try this approach. You might know that excavate is not a positive word, like happy, it's not negative word like terror, it's actually a neutral charge word, so if you know that, put a neutral, a plus and minus, in parenthesis right next to the word, and when you go to your answer choices, you're going to eliminate any word that is not a neutral word.

Okay, so now that you came up with some roots of the word, and you figured out that excavate is a neutral charge word, let's eliminate some choices. Now we can eliminate in fact choice A, which is a negative word, and we can eliminate C, pardon, which is a positively charged word, leaving us with display and uncover. We're going to go with choice D because uncover closely mirrors the word excavate. So remember, if you take apart the synonym and look for the roots and the charge of the word before you look at the answer choices, then you'll be in prime position to swiftly narrow in on the correct answer. I wish you good luck and I'll talk to you soon.