

Synonyms

Explanation

Synonyms are words that **mean the same** or **nearly the same**. Many words have synonyms and this is useful when you are writing. You don't need to use the same word again and again. Instead you can use a synonym.

Example He walked along the **shadowy** path until he came to the **unlit** building.
The sky above was **gloomy**.

'Shadowy', 'unlit' and 'gloomy' are all synonyms for 'dark'.

The passage sounds more interesting with the synonyms.

Did you know?

English has lots of words with similar meanings because it is a mixture of many languages.

Activities

1 Match up pairs of words that have the **same** or **similar** meanings.

amusing

adore

_____ and _____

angry

penniless

_____ and _____

strong

intelligent

_____ and _____

stop

humorous

_____ and _____

clever

assist

_____ and _____

like

prevent

_____ and _____

poor

powerful

_____ and _____

help

annoyed

_____ and _____

2 It is **useful to know** synonyms for words you use a lot. Write a **synonym** for each of these words.

a great _____

e little _____

b horrible _____

f stupid _____

c rich _____

g quiet _____

d shout _____

h run _____

Antonyms

Explanation

Antonyms are words with completely **opposite** meanings. If you look in a **thesaurus**, you may find the opposites of words are also given.

Example young → old hot → cold start → stop happy → unhappy

Some words have more than one antonym.

Example silly → sensible, clever

Activities

1 Match up the pairs of opposites or **antonyms**. Write the pairs of words on the right.

easy	negative	_____ and _____
ancient	rough	_____ and _____
smooth	cowardly	_____ and _____
close	difficult	_____ and _____
positive	distant	_____ and _____
huge	modern	_____ and _____
cheerful	tiny	_____ and _____
heroic	glum	_____ and _____

2 Complete these sentences using pairs of antonyms.

- a Cinderella's sisters were _____ but the Fairy Godmother was _____.
- b The Giant was _____ but Jack was _____.
- c The hare was _____ but the tortoise was _____.
- d Peter Pan was _____ but Captain Hook was _____.
- e Robin Hood was _____ but the Sheriff of Nottingham was _____.

Practising synonyms and antonyms

1 Underline the word **closest in meaning** to the word in **bold**.

- a It's an **absurd** idea. good interesting ridiculous clever
- b He was **elated** by the news. angry overjoyed frightened tired
- c We must **persevere**. return overtake stop continue

2 Write a **synonym** for the word in bold.

- a the **victorious** team _____ c an **abundant** supply _____
- b a **hilarious** story _____ d an **ordinary** day _____

3 Underline the **two** words that mean the **opposite** of the word in bold.

- a The place was **deserted**. empty busy abandoned crowded
- b The family were **poor**. wealthy needy prosperous healthy
- c The aliens were **hostile**. surprised welcoming approachable aggressive

4 Write an **antonym** of each word.

- a shallow _____ d probable _____
- b absent _____ e partial _____
- c broad _____ f demolish _____

5 Choose the **most suitable** synonym for 'old' to use in each phrase.

ancient prehistoric elderly outdated antique previous

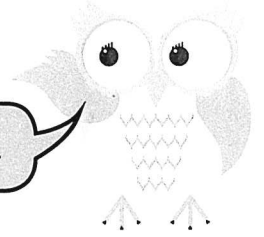
- a _____ vase c _____ monument e _____ cave
- b _____ man d _____ clothes f my _____ school

6 Put a **prefix** at the beginning of each word to make it into an antonym.

- a _____ understand d _____ important
- b _____ capable e _____ orderly
- c _____ perfect f _____ legible

Match the synonym

Synonyms are words with similar meanings.



Complete the diagrams below by adding the correct synonyms from the list at the bottom of the page. You will have four words left.

	big		happy
	little		sad

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| annoyed | small | outraged | petite | gloomy |
| enormous | cheerful | tiny | pleased | ecstatic |
| delighted | diminutive | colossal | depressed | furious |
| cheerless | miserable | huge | livid | gigantic |

List the four words you have not used and write one synonym that will apply to all of them.

Four words: _____

My synonym: _____





Swap the synonyms

Synonym means similar.

Replace the bold words in each of the following sentences with a synonym so that the meaning of each sentence remains the same.

1. All Formula 1 cars move **quickly**.

2. I decided to **throw out** all of the toys I no longer used.

3. I wouldn't have made it on time if I hadn't **eaten** my breakfast quickly.

4. When I looked down from the top of the building I was **scared**.

5. I had plenty of time so I **walked** slowly to school.

6. I was late so I had to **run** to school.

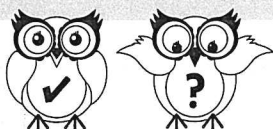
7. There was a terrible **smell** coming from the toilets!

8. I thought the maths test was really **simple**.

9. The sun **shone** brightly every day during my holiday in Greece.

10. It was that **funny**, I fell off my chair laughing.

How did you do?



Circle the synonyms

Circle all of the words in each list that are synonyms for the word in bold in the sentence.

1. Yesterday was a **nice** day.

horrible pleasant dreadful good lovely terrible enjoyable

2. My cat was **wet** when it came in from the rain.

soaked dry drenched waterless parched soggy dripping

3. Stroking a crocodile is **dangerous**!

safe risky perilous unsafe harmless hazardous

4. It is **sensible** to look for traffic before you cross the road.

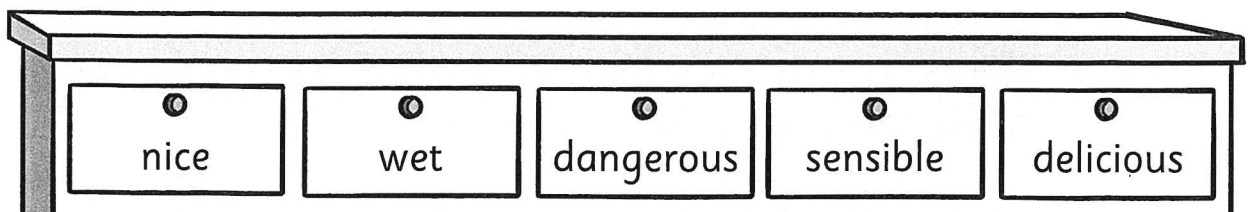
stupid reasonable foolish sane wise silly unwise prudent

5. My favourite meal is a **delicious** curry.

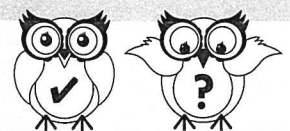
scrumptious tasty flavourless delectable bland yummy tasteless

Now look at the words you have not circled. See how they relate to the underlined words in the sentences.

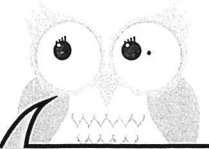
What is the name we give to words like these? _____



How did you do?



Synonyms and antonyms



Synonyms are similar. Antonyms are opposite.

Replace the bold word in each sentence with a synonym.

1. Blackpool Tower is a very **tall** building.

2. Millionaires are very **rich** people.

3. I think purple is a **horrible** colour.

4. Giving money to charity is a **good** thing to do.

5. University lecturers are **clever** people.

Replace the underlined word in each sentence with an antonym.

6. I think purple is a **horrible** colour.

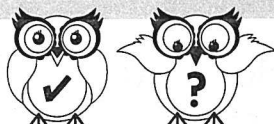
7. Very few people are **honest**.

8. I think running is a **wonderful** sport.

9. I **never** eat unhealthy foods.

10. The crowd at the football match was very **quiet**.

How did you do?



Using synonyms to help cohesion

In each of the passages below, replace the words in bold with synonyms to give the text more cohesion and avoid repetition.

Rudi opened his book and began to read. **The book** _____ was an imaginative story about the time when dinosaurs ruled the Earth. **The story** _____ gave lots of interesting details about **dinosaurs** _____. **Rudi** _____ knew that not all of **the details** _____ were true. **The details** _____ couldn't all be **true** _____ because it was **an imaginative story** _____.

Snow fell heavily, blowing great drifts against the windows of Scarlet's house. Inside **the house** _____, Scarlet felt safe and warm. She looked out of **the window** _____ and **looked** _____ at **the great drifts** _____ that blocked her view of the street. **In the street** _____, a boy and a girl were playing, throwing snowballs at each other. Scarlet wanted to join **the boy and the girl** _____ but she also **wanted** _____ to stay **inside** _____ where it was **warm** _____.

Trudy was very angry. **Trudy was angry** _____ because her sister, Millie, had borrowed her bike again. **Millie** _____ never asked permission. **Millie** _____ just took the bike whenever she felt like it. Trudy had told **Millie** _____ that if she took the bike again without **permission** _____, there would be trouble.

How did you do?

