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# ENGLISH

## Synonyms and Antonyms

### What are Synonyms?

**Synonyms** are words which are used as substitutes for other words. Sometimes, synonyms need not mean exactly the same as the other word. They can also be a close substitute which means they can mean nearly the same as the other word.

**Synonyms can belong to any word category:**

Category	Word	Synonym	Synonym
<b>Noun</b>	Paramour	Lover	Beau
<b>Adjective</b>	Pleasing	Alluring	Fetching
<b>Verb</b>	Scan	Swindle	Deceive
<b>Adverb</b>	Candidly	Blatantly	Flagrantly

English is a language that has multiple influences. The socio-political history of England has helped shape the language into what it is today. Imperialism also had a big impact on the English language since the British took home new words from the countries they had colonised. Today, we have in English, words originating in Chinese, Sanskrit, Arabic and other colonial languages. It also has words that have originated in French, Spanish, German and Italian.

Word	Meaning	Language of Origin
<b>Ketchup</b>	A condiment	Chinese
<b>Gung-ho</b>	Enthusiastic	Chinese
<b>Tycoon</b>	An industrialist	Chinese
<b>Gunny</b>	A sack	Sanskrit
<b>Juggernaut</b>	An unstoppable object	Sanskrit
<b>Mahout</b>	Elephant rider	Sanskrit
<b>Alcohol</b>	An intoxicant	Arabic
<b>Magazine</b>	Storage	Arabic
<b>Zenith</b>	Highest point	Arabic
<b>Gaffe</b>	Mistake	French
<b>Riposte</b>	A sharp reply	French
<b>Macabre</b>	Gruesome	French
<b>Incommunicado</b>	Not communicating	Spanish
<b>Bonanza</b>	A profit, a rich find	Spanish
<b>Armada</b>	Fleet of ships	Spanish
<b>Bravura</b>	An act of bravery	Italian
<b>Imbroglia</b>	A big quarrel	Italian
<b>Virtuoso</b>	Someone who is skilled	Italian

## Usage of Synonyms

Synonyms are used for the purpose of bringing variety in language. Apart from this, synonyms are also used to match **the register** and the **mode of communication**.

Neutral	Formal	Informal
Buy	Purchase	Get
Complete	Exhaustive	Whole-hog
TV	Television	Telly
Children	Offspring	Kids
Criminals	Offenders	Crooks
Stupid	Imbecile	Dumb
Tired of	Dissatisfied	Sick of
Parents	Progenitors	Folks

Synonyms are also used to distinguish speech from writing. Some words are preferable in writing, while some sound better in speech. Often, one reserves formal and sophisticated words for writing and casual words for speech.

Writing	Speech
Subsequently	Later
Alas!	Oh no!
In sum	To sum up
Awe-inspiring	Awesome
Recalibrated	Measured again
For (conjunction)	Because (conjunction)

Synonyms are also used to replace the archaic or obsolete words in the English language.

Archaic Word	Modern Counterpart
Behove	Responsibility
Brimstone	Sulphur
Dispraise	Criticise
Handmaid	Female servant
Meat	Any type of food
Scaramouch	A braggart
Wherefore	For what reason
Yonder	Over there
Smite	Conquer
Saturnism	Lead poisoning
Rede	Advice

Sometimes, a word does not do justice to the emotion behind it. The tone or the emotion behind a person's voice can also dictate which word has to be used.

- A. Mayuri was **annoyed** by the hotel staff's delay in the order.  
 B. Mayuri was **indignant** at the hotel staff's misbehaviour.

The words **annoyed** and **indignant** are synonyms. However, indignant is more intense and forceful than annoyed. A simple delay may make the subject annoyed, but misbehaviour is bound to cause indignation.

## What are Antonyms?

In contrast with synonyms, **antonyms** are words which are opposite in meaning to the other. This may sound strange, but often, to understand a word better, we have to look at its antonym. We learn the meaning of the word by understanding how it contrasts with its antonym.

Like synonyms, there can be more than one antonym for a given word.

Category	Word	Antonym	Antonym
Noun	ally	foe	detractor
Adjective	bold	lily-livered	cowardly
Verb	sanctify	desecrate	ravage
Adverb	completely	inadequately	partially

## Types of Antonyms

There are three types of antonyms:

- Gradable antonyms
- Complementary antonyms
- Relational antonyms

### Gradable Antonyms

Gradable antonyms are words which are the extreme opposites of each other. Imagine a spectrum or a scale. Gradable antonyms will be at equal distances from the centre on the scale. However, these words may have a spectrum of words between them. All these words may exist together on the same scale.



In the above example, **Horrible** is the polar opposite of the word **Excellent**. But together, they exist on the same spectrum as **Bad, Mediocre** and **Good**. Each word on the spectrum is an antonym of the other. For example, the word **Good** is the antonym of **Horrible, Bad, Mediocre** and **Excellent**.

loving	hateful	confident	overconfident	black	white
virtuous	impious	ancient	modern	billionaire	pauper

### Complementary Antonyms

Unlike gradable antonyms which have a spectrum of words between them, complementary antonyms are words which express two extreme ideas without the possibility of 'middle' words. They do not lie on a continuous scale and are the exact opposites of each other.

complete	incomplete	unique	ordinary	flawless	blemished
dead	living	drunk	sober	unlimited	limited

### Relational Antonyms

Relational antonyms are words which are opposite to each other by the virtue of their relationship alone. One finds meaning through the existence of the other. For example, the word **up** exists in relation to the word **down**.

grandparent	grandchildren	employee	employer	husband	wife
host	guest	predator	prey	perpetrator	victim

## Synonyms and Antonyms

Word	Synonym			Antonym		
abominable (adj)	awful	abhorrent	execrable	attractive	likeable	appealing
adroit (adj)	skilful	proficient	adept	skilful	awkward	inept
aggression (n)	belligerence	offense	attack	retreat	calmness	befriending
amateur (n)	rookie	beginner	novice	professional	skilled	expert
amiable (adj)	friendly	cordial	charming	unfriendly	unsociable	hostile
antagonise (v)	anger	torment	affront	aid	help	please
antediluvian (adj)	old	ancient	prehistoric	modern	young	current