

Help Centres – English Support



Synonyms & Antonyms in Your Writing

Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meaning of a given word. Learning synonyms for different words will help to expand your vocabulary and allow you to choose appropriate words in your writing.

Tip: Remember to check a dictionary to make sure the word you choose has the same meaning you are looking for!

This table lists some common words and their synonyms:

Nouns:

agreement	Bargain, contract, deal, pact, treaty, understanding
belief	Conviction, judgement, opinion, thought, view
end	Conclusion, finale, finish, goal, outcome, termination
group	Batch, bunch, cluster, collection, mass, multitude
house	Abode, dwelling, household, residence, shelter
Job	Business, career, employment, occupation, profession, trade

Verbs:

Break	Crack, crush, damage, destroy, shatter, smash, splinter
Change	Convert, modify, shift, switch, transfer, transform, vary
Copy	Duplicate, follow, imitate, impersonate, mimic, mock
Guard	Defend, protect, screen, shelter, shield
Look	Examine, graze, glance, glare, observe, peer, view
Surrender	Relinquish, renounce, resign, sacrifice, submit, yield

Adjectives:

Beautiful	Elegant, exquisite, gorgeous, lovely, splendid, stunning
Calm	Composed, placid, poised, quiet, serene, still, tranquil
Dark	Bleak, dismal, dreary, dusky, gloomy, murky
Funny	Amusing, comical, entertaining, hilarious, humorous, witty
Kind	Considerate, gentle, helpful, sympathetic, thoughtful
Normal	Common, natural, regular, routine, typical, usual
Rare	Exceptional, extraordinary, remarkable, unique, unusual
Sure	Certain, confident, firm, positive, secure

Adverbs:

Bravely	Boldly, courageously, daringly, defiantly, valiantly
Carefully	Attentively, cautiously, guardedly, watchfully
Fast	Hastily, instantly, quickly, rapidly, swiftly
Now	Immediately, instantly, presently, promptly, suddenly
Sadly	Gloomily, miserably, mournfully, sorrowfully

Antonyms are words that have the opposite meaning of a given word. Learning antonyms for different words will help when you are writing or describing differences between two things.

This table lists some common words and their antonyms:

Nouns:

Beginning – conclusion
 belief – doubt
 Boredom – amusement
 Center – edge

Child – adult
 Construction – destruction
 Honesty – deceit
 Joy – sorrow

Loss – gain
 Question – answer
 Smile – frown
 Vanity – modesty

Verbs:

Add – subtract
 Agree – disagree
 Allow – forbid
 Ascend – descend
 Attract – repel
 Break – repair
 Build – destroy

Catch – throw
 Change – maintain
 Conquer – surrender
 Find – lose
 Float – sink
 Hide – show
 Hurry – dawdle

Remember – forget
 Rise – fall
 Send – receive
 Shout – whisper
 Shivel – expand
 Soothe – worry
 Thaw – freeze

Adjectives:

Afraid – confident
 Brave – timid
 Careless – cautious
 Clumsy – graceful
 Dangerous – safe
 Deep – shallow
 Dreary – bright
 Easy – difficult

Expensive – cheap
 Fierce – tame
 Flexible – stiff
 Generous – greedy
 Gentle – rough
 Genuine – fake
 Gigantic – tiny
 Humorous – serious

Interesting – boring
 Narrow – wide
 Proud – humble
 Rare – common
 Rough – smooth
 Sharp – dull
 Straight – crooked
 Thoughtful – selfish

Adverbs:

Always – never
 Angrily – cheerfully
 Backward – forward
 Boldly – fearfully
 Brilliantly – dimly
 Childishly – maturely

Daily – nightly
 Eagerly – reluctantly
 Gradually – suddenly
 Indoors – outdoors
 Kindly – cruelly
 Occasionally – regularly

Patiently – impatiently
 Politely – rudely
 Quietly – noisily
 Rapidly – slowly
 Tightly – loosely
 Wisely – foolishly

Prepositions:

Above – below
 After – before
 For – against
 In – out

Inside – outside
 Near – beyond
 Off – on
 Over – under

Through – around
 To – from
 Up – down
 With – without