

Synonyms & Antonyms

SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

One of the most important aspects of good writing is precision: you want your word choice to be as specific as possible; knowing and understanding synonyms and antonyms will help with this process.

What ARE SYNONYMS?

They are words which share extremely close or similar meanings. For example, the synonyms for 'pretty' are: attractive, lovely and good-looking.

How many synonyms can you list for the following words?

FRIENDLY (adj.)	
HOT (adj.)	
FAIR (adj.)	
WALK (v.)	
AMAZING (adj.)	
LARGE (adj.)	
HOUSE (n.)	
DRINK (v.)	
RUN (v.)	
TRUE (adj.)	
JOY (n.)	
EXPLAIN (v.)	
LAZY (adj.)	

What ARE ANTONYMS?

They are words which have opposite meanings. For example, the antonyms for 'complicated' are: uncomplicated, simple, straightforward and clear.

Can you find antonyms for the following words?

KIND (adj.)		LEAD (v.)	
EXCITING (adj.)		BRIGHT (adj.)	
NEW (adj.)		MODERN (adj.)	
LOUDLY (adv.)		CAREFULLY (adv.)	
OPEN (verb.)		NOISE (n.)	
BORING (adj.)		ROUGH (adj.)	
BOLD (adj.)		CLUMSY (adj.)	
UNLIKELY (adj.)		SHINY (adj.)	
SMART (adj.)		DARKEN (v.)	
SHARP (v.)		RUDE (adj.)	
SHY (adj.)		CLOSE (adj.)	
CONFUSE (v.)		BELIEF (n.)	
CONTEMPT (n.)		WILDLY (adv.)	

Read the following extract from Charles Dicken's *Oliver Twist*.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves beside him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered to each other and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said, somewhat alarmed at his own temerity,-

"Please, sir, I want some more."
The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed with stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds; and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralyzed with wonder, the boys with fear.

Identify synonyms for the following, which appear in the above extract:

- 1) starred: _____
- 2) dumbfounded: _____
- 3) astonishment: _____
- 4) positioned: _____
- 5) poked: _____
- 6) approaching: _____
- 7) bowl: _____
- 8) grasped: _____
- 9) audacity: _____

Identify antonyms for the following, which appear in the above extract:

- 1) shouted: _____
- 2) careful: _____
- 3) sick: _____
- 4) flushed: _____
- 5) fell: _____
- 6) pleasure: _____
- 7) less: _____
- 8) appeared: _____
- 9) wealthy: _____

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How many synonyms can you list for the following words?

FRIENDLY (adj.)	affable, amiable, genial, congenial, cordial, warm, affectionate
HOT (adj.)	heated, sizzling, roasting, searing, scorching, scalding, burning
FAIR (adj.)	just, honest, upright, honorable, trustworthy, impartial, unbiased
WALK (v.)	stroll, saunter, amble, trudge, plod, dawdle, hike, tramp, march
AMAZING (adj.)	astonishing, astounding, surprising, stunning, spectacular
LARGE (adj.)	astonishing, astounding, surprising, stunning, spectacular
HOUSE (n.)	big, huge, substantial, immense, enormous, colossal, massive
DRINK (v.)	swallow, gulp down, swig, guzzle, imbibe, sip, consume
RUN (v.)	sprint, race, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, scurry, scamper, bolt
TRUE (adj.)	correct, accurate, right, verifiable, authentic, real, legit
JOY (n.)	delight, great pleasure, joyfulness, jubilation, triumph
EXPLAIN (v.)	describe, make clear, elucidate, expound, explicate, clarify
LAZY (adj.)	idle, indolent, slothful, work-shy, shiftless, inactive

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Can you find antonyms for the following words?

KIND (adj.)	unkind / cruel	LEAD (v.)	follow
EXCITING (adj.)	boring / dull	BRIGHT (adj.)	dark / dull
NEW (adj.)	old / aged	MODERN (adj.)	vintage / old
LOUDLY (adv.)	quietly / softly	CAREFULLY (adv.)	reckless / careless
OPEN (verb.)	close	NOISE (n.)	silence / quiet
BORING (adj.)	exciting / thrilling	ROUGH (adj.)	smooth
BOLD (adj.)	cautious / hesitant	CLUMSY (adj.)	graceful / elegant
UNLIKELY (adj.)	certain / likely	SHINY (adj.)	dull / matte
SMART (adj.)	unintelligent	DARKEN (v.)	lighten / brighten
SHARP (v.)	blunt	RUDE (adj.)	polite / courteous
SHY (adj.)	confident	CLOSE (adj.)	far / remote
CONFUSE (v.)	enlighten	BELIEF (n.)	disbelief / doubt
CONTEMPT (n.)	respect	WILDLY (adv.)	calmly

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Identify synonyms for the following, which appear in the above extract:

- 1) starred: gazed
- 2) dumbfounded: stupefied
- 3) astonishment: wonder
- 4) positioned: stationed / ranged
- 5) poked: nudged
- 6) approaching: advancing
- 7) bowl: basin
- 8) grasped: clung
- 9) audacity: temerity

Identify antonyms for the following, which appear in the above extract:

- 1) shouted: _____
- 2) careful: reckless
- 3) sick: healthy
- 4) flushed: pale
- 5) fell: rose
- 6) pleasure: misery
- 7) less: more
- 8) appeared: disappeared
- 9) wealthy: pauper