

## 1.2. SYNONYMS

Words with similar meanings are called synonyms. But nothing in nature is hundred percent identical to anything else. For example, a tree has numerous leaves. At a distance, the leaves appear similar. If we closely examine any two leaves of the same tree, we find that both leaves are distinct from each other. The same principle applies to synonyms. There can be a similarity between two words, but they will never be identical in meaning; there will be nuances of meaning, making each one most appropriate in a given context. Such is the beauty of synonyms. Therefore, a word which is more than fifty percent similar in meaning is called a synonym for that word. It is very important to check as to how two words are close to each other in meaning. Then comes the grammatical status of that word, i.e., the synonym of a noun must be a noun, that of an adjective should be an adjective; a verb must be a verb, and an adverb must be an adverb, and so on.

### A. Synonyms of Nouns

act	- deed	cure	- remedy
admission	- entry	defect	- fault
affection	- love	desire	- wish
beginning	- start	display	- exhibition
behaviour	- conduct	donation	- contribution
cause	- reason	earnings	- income
chance	- opportunity	envy	- jealousy
character	- nature	evidence	- proof
consequence	- result	freedom	- liberty
conversation	- talk	grief	- sorrow
competition	- contest	harm	- injury
hunger	- appetite	odour	- smell
idea	- thought	pleasure	- satisfaction
intention	- purpose	principle	- rule
journey	- trip	riches	- wealth
judgement	- verdict	strength	- power
knowledge	- learning	subject	- topic
midday	- noon	system	- method
misery	- unhappiness	value	- worth

### B. Synonyms of Adjectives

accurate	- exact	fertile	- productive
alert	- watchful	frightened	- scared
annual	- yearly	furiosus	- angry
anxious	- worried	hard	- difficult

attractive	- pretty	hardworking	- industrious
awful	- terrible	ignorant	- stupid
brave	- courageous	jealous	- envious
bright	- intelligent	kind	- charitable
cautious	- careful	loyal	- faithful
clear	- distinct	mean	- stingy
clumsy	- awkward	necessary	- essential
coarse	- rough	normal	- usual
common	- ordinary	old	- elderly
confident	- hopeful	polite	- courteous
damp	- moist	safe	- secure
desperate	- hopeless	similar	- alike
diligent	- hard-working	strong	- powerful
doubtful	- uncertain	tired	- weary
energetic	- active	transparent	- clear
fair	- just	wasteful	- extravagant

### C. Synonyms of Verbs

abandon	- leave	confess	- admit
aid	- help	control	- manage
allow	- let	cure	- heal
acquire	- get	decrease	- reduce
ask	- inquire	design	- plan
build	- construct	educate	- teach
buy	- purchase	find	- discover
capture	- seize	finish	- complete
choose	- select	forgive	- pardon
glance	- look	reside	- stay
hate	- dislike	reveal	- show
hurt	- harm	search	- seek
imagine	- think	start	- begin
increase	- enlarge	surround	- encircle
leave	- depart	try	- attempt
own	- possess	vanish	- disappear
protect	- defend	want	- need
receive	- stay	watch	- look

### D. Synonyms of Adverbs

almost	- nearly	generously	- liberally
annually	- yearly	gravely	- seriously

certainly	- surely
clearly	- plainly
cleverly	- skilfully
completely	- totally
correctly	- properly
formerly	- previously
frankly	- honestly
frequently	- often

happily	- joyfully
immediately	- instantly
incorrectly	- wrongly
intentionally	- purposely
powerfully	- strongly
rapidly	- quickly
sincerely	- truly

### 1.3. ANTONYMS

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. For example, the opposite of modern is ancient. But some words have two antonyms: the word 'old' has two possible antonyms: young and new, but the contexts of their uses are different. It is important to know the context and situation of every antonym. The antonym of a noun must be a noun, that of a verb should be a verb, that of an adjective should be an adjective, and that of an adverb should be an adverb.

Antonyms can be formed in the following ways:

1. by adding a prefix to the given word
2. by changing the prefix of a given word
3. by changing the suffix of a given word
4. by means of a completely new word

#### Examples

##### 1. By adding a prefix

able	- unable
load	- unload
accurate	- inaccurate
complete	- incomplete
possible	- impossible
patient	- impatient
regular	- irregular
responsible	- irresponsible
climax	- anticlimax

honest	- dishonest
obey	- disobey
behave	- misbehave
understand	- misunderstand
legal	- illegal
legible	- illegible
smoker	- non-smoker
citizen	- non-citizen
ordinary	- extraordinary

##### 2. By changing the prefix

absent	- present
ascend	- descend
export	- import
external	- internal
increase	- decrease

emigrant	- immigrant
encourage	- discourage
include	- exclude
minimum	- maximum
pro-China	- anti-China

##### 3. By changing the suffix

harm	- harmless
fearful	- fearless
useful	- useless
painful	- painless

employer	- employee
lively	- lifeless
sensible	- senseless

#### 4. By a completely new word

##### A. Antonyms of Nouns

amateur	— professional	liquid	— solid
adult	— child	master	— servant
arrival	— departure	mountain	— valley
back, rear	— front	native	— foreigner
birth	— death	past	— future
captivity	— freedom	poverty	— wealth
danger	— safety	question	— answer
entrance	— exit	sale	— purchase
friend	— enemy	summer	— winter
health	— sickness	tenant	— landlord
good	— evil	victory	— defeat
head	— foot	war	— peace
heat	— cold	weakness	— strength
host	— guest	youth	— age
income	— expenditure		

##### B. Antonyms of Adjectives

ancient	— modern	hollow	— solid
angry	— pleased	inferior	— superior
beneficial	— harmful	innocent	— guilty
bright	— dark	kind	— cruel
calm	— rough, excited	lazy	— hardworking
common	— rare	modern	— old-fashioned
cool	— warm	moving	— stationary
deep	— shallow	neat	— untidy
delicate	— strong	negative	— positive
doubtful	— certain	public	— private
fair	— dark	raw	— cooked
fresh	— stale	safe	— dangerous
generous	— selfish	senior	— junior
tame	— wild	sharp	— blunt
temporary	— permanent	unique	— common
thrifty	— extravagant	vacant	— full
true	— false, untrue	wasteful	— economical
		weak	— strong

##### C. Antonyms of Verbs

accept	— refuse	give	— take, receive
admit	— deny	hit	— miss
allow	— forbid	join	— separate
bend	— straighten	lead	— follow
blame	— praise	love	— hate