BASIC
SYNONYMS

PRE-INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

IDEAL FOR VOCABULARY BUILDING
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Preface

When several words seem to have almost the same meaning, how do you choose the right word so that you express exactly what you want to? This book groups words with similar meanings (known as 'synonyms') together and gives each a definition and example so that the similarities and differences are made clear.

Anyone who wants to write clear and accurate English, using the correct word in a particular context, will find this book helpful, and a useful companion to the Easier English Basic Dictionary.

Groups of similar words are arranged alphabetically under the main word for the particular meaning being illustrated, so words meaning 'big' are given at big. The ways in which these similar words are used in different situations are compared. Words with an opposite meaning to the main meaning being illustrated (known as 'antonyms') are also given.

If you are not sure which group the word you are checking might appear in, you can find all the words in an alphabetical list at the end of the book with a reference to the place where they appear. By using this list you will be able to find possible alternative words to use for the basic word you already know.
ability noun

Synonyms: ability, skill, competence, talent, capability
Antonym: inability

Synonyms:

ability
a natural tendency to do something well
I admire his ability to stay calm in difficult situations.

skill
the ability to do something well as a result of training or experience
Portrait painting needs a lot of skill. This job will help you develop management skills.

competence
the quality of being able to do a job or task well enough
Does she have the necessary competence in foreign languages?

talent
an usually good natural ability, especially for something artistic
She’s done well in the theatre—we always knew she had talent.

capability
the practical ability to do something
We have the capability to produce a better machine than this.

Antonym:

inability
the state of being unable to do something
accomplish verb

Synonyms: accomplish, achieve, carry out, pull off

accomplish
to do something successfully
You won’t accomplish anything by arguing.

achieve
to succeed in doing something after trying very hard
Have you achieved all your aims? ○ The company has achieved great success in the USA.

carry out
to do something, especially something that has been planned
Doctors carried out tests on the patients. ○ The police are carrying out a search for the missing man.

pull off
to succeed in doing something very good, especially if it is unexpected
The deal will be great for the company, if we can pull it off.
anger noun

Synonyms: anger, annoyance, irritation, resentment, fury, rage
Antonym: calmness

Synonyms:
anger
a feeling of being very annoyed
He managed to control his anger.  She couldn’t hide the anger she felt.

annoyance
a feeling of being slightly upset or impatient
There was a tone of annoyance in her voice.

irritation
a feeling of being annoyed and impatient
She watched with irritation as he tried to fix the wheel again.

resentment
the feeling of being angry and upset about something that someone else has done
The decision caused a lot of resentment among local people.

fury
very strong anger
He shouted at us in fury.

rage
sudden extreme anger
Her face was red with rage.

Antonym:
calmness
the state of being quiet and calm
annoy verb

**Synonyms:** annoy, irritate, bother, bug

**Antonyms:** please, delight

**Synonyms:**

- **annoy**
  
  to make someone feel slightly angry or impatient
  
  *Their rude behaviour really annoyed us.*

- **irritate**
  
  to make someone feel angry or impatient
  
  *It irritates me when the trains run late.*

- **bother**
  
  to make someone feel slightly upset or irritated
  
  *It bothers me that it takes so long to get a reply.*

- **bug**
  
  *(informal)* to make someone feel slightly angry, especially for a long time
  
  *That noise is really bugging me.*
  *It’s bugging me that I can’t remember his name.*

**Antonyms:**

- **please**
  
  to make someone happy or satisfied

- **delight**
  
  to give great pleasure to someone
answer noun

Synonyms: answer, reply, response, acknowledgement
Antonym: question

Synonyms:

answer
something that you say or write when someone has asked you a question
*The answer to your question is yes.*

reply
an answer, especially to a letter or telephone call
*We wrote last week, but haven’t had a reply yet. We had six replies to our advertisement.*

response
something that you do or say as a reaction to something
*There was no response to our call for help. The changes produced an angry response from customers.*

acknowledgement
a letter or note sent to say that something has been received
*We didn’t even receive an acknowledgement from the council.*

Antonym:

question
a sentence which needs an answer
**ask** verb

*Synonyms: ask, demand, beg, request*

**ask**

to put a question to get someone to do something

*Ask your father to teach you how to drive.*  ○ *Can I ask you not to make so much noise?*

**demand**

to ask firmly for something

*I demand an explanation for your behaviour.*

**beg**

to ask someone in an emotional way to do something or give something

*His mother begged him not to go.*  ○ *He begged for more time to find the money.*

**request**

to ask for something politely or formally

*I am enclosing the leaflets you requested.*  ○ *Guests are requested to leave their keys at reception.*
**assistant** noun

*Synonyms: assistant, helper, deputy, auxiliary*

**assistant**
- a person who helps someone as part of their job
  
  His assistant makes all his appointments.

**helper**
- a person who helps someone do a particular job or task, especially without being paid
  
  The children can be my helpers for the day.

**deputy**
- a person who makes decisions when the manager or boss is away
  
  She’s acting as deputy while her department manager is in hospital.

**auxiliary**
- a person who helps other workers
  
  He works as a nursing auxiliary in the local hospital.
aware adjective

Synonyms: aware, conscious, alert, informed, mindful
Antonyms: unaware, ignorant

Synonyms:

aware
knowing about things that are happening or about facts
I’m not aware of any problem. ○ Is he aware that we have to decide quickly?

conscious
awake and able to know what is happening around you
She was conscious during the operation.

alert
watching or listening carefully, ready to notice something
The patient is still very alert mentally. ○ Young people have to be alert to the dangers of drugs.

informed
having a lot of information, or having the latest information
The programme is aimed at highly informed viewers.

mindful
remembering or thinking about something carefully when doing something
He is mindful of his responsibilities as a parent. ○ You should be mindful of the risks you are taking.

Antonyms:

unaware
not knowing facts, or not realising that something is happening

ignorant
not knowing things that it is important to know
**beach** noun

*Synonyms: beach, shore, coast, seaside*

**beach**
- an area of sand or small stones by the edge of the sea
  
  *Some children were digging in the sand on the beach.*

**shore**
- land at the edge of the sea or a lake
  
  *She stood on the shore waving as the boat sailed away.*

**coast**
- parts of a country that are by the sea
  
  *After ten weeks at sea, the sailors saw the coast of America. ○ The south coast is the warmest part of the country.*

**seaside**
- an area near the sea where people go to have a holiday
  
  *a day at the seaside ○ seaside hotels*
**beginner** *noun*

*Synonyms: beginner, apprentice, novice, learner*

*Antonyms: expert, old hand*

**Synonyms:**

**beginner**
- a person who is starting to learn something or do something
  - *The course is for absolute beginners.*
  - *I can’t paint very well – I’m just a beginner.*

**apprentice**
- a young person who works as an assistant to a skilled person in order to learn from them
  - *He’s started work as a plumber’s apprentice.*

**novice**
- a person who has very little experience or skill, e.g. in a job or sport
  - *He’s still a novice at rowing.*
  - *A competition like this is not for novices.*

**learner**
- a person who is learning how to do something
  - *The evening swimming classes are specially for adult learners.*
  - *The new dictionary is good for advanced learners of English.*

**Antonyms:**

**expert**
- a person who knows a great deal about a subject

**old hand**
- a person who is very skilled and experienced at doing something
**big** adjective

*Synonyms:* big, huge, enormous, vast  
*Antonym:* small

**Synonyms:**

**big**
- of a large size
  - *I don’t want a small car – I want a big one.*  
  - *His father has the biggest restaurant in town.*  
  - *I’m not afraid of him – I’m bigger than he is.*

**huge**
- of a very large size
  - *Huge waves battered the ship.*  
  - *The concert was a huge success.*  
  - *Failing the test was a huge disappointment for him.*

**enormous**
- of an extremely large size
  - *The house is absolutely enormous.*  
  - *He ate an enormous lunch.*  
  - *The present was an enormous surprise.*

**vast**
- extremely big, often extremely wide
  - *vast areas of farmland*  
  - *vast differences in price*

**Antonym:**

**small**
- not large in size or amount
**block** verb

Synonyms: block, hinder, hamper, hold back, obstruct

**block**
to prevent something from passing along something
*The pipe is blocked with dead leaves.* ○ *The crash blocked the road for hours.*

**hinder**
to make it difficult for someone to do something
*Snow hindered the efforts of the rescuers.*

**hamper**
to prevent something from happening or moving normally
*Lack of funds is hampering our development project.* ○ *The heavy bags hampered her progress.*

**hold back**
not to go forwards, or stop someone or something from going forwards
*Most of the crowd held back until they saw it was safe.* ○ *The water was held back by a small bank of earth.*

**obstruct**
to prevent someone from doing something
*He obstructed their plans by making many complaints.*
**break** *verb*

**Synonyms:** break, crack, smash, burst  
**Antonym:** mend

**Synonyms:**

- **break**
  - to make something divide into pieces accidentally or deliberately
  
  *She broke her leg when she was skiing. ○ Break the chocolate into four pieces.*

- **crack**
  - to make a long thin break in something
  
  *The stone cracked the glass.*

- **smash**
  - to break something into pieces, often using force or violence
  
  *Demosntrators smashed the windows of police cars.*

- **burst**
  - to break open or explode suddenly, or cause something to break open or explode suddenly
  
  *One of the tyres had burst. ○ The heat from the fire might burst the balloon.*

**Antonym:**

- **mend**
  - to repair something which is broken or damaged
careful

**adjective**

**Synonyms:** careful, conscientious, thorough, painstaking

**Antonym:** careless

**Synonyms:**

- **careful**
  - showing attention to details
  - *We are always very careful to give accurate information.* ○ *The project needs very careful planning.*

- **conscientious**
  - working carefully and well
  - *She's a very conscientious worker.*

- **thorough**
  - including everything that needs to be dealt with very carefully
  - *The police have carried out a thorough search of the woods.*

- **painstaking**
  - done slowly and carefully in order to avoid mistakes
  - *The design is the result of years of painstaking effort.*

**Antonym:**

- **careless**
  - without any care or thought
**cautious** adjective

*Synonyms:* cautious, careful, prudent, vigilant, wary, secretive, cagey  
*Antonyms:* reckless, thoughtless

**Synonyms:**
- **cautious:** not willing to take risks  
  *She’s a very cautious driver.*
- **careful:** taking care not to make mistakes or cause harm  
  *Be careful not to make any noise – the baby is asleep. ○ She is very careful about what she eats.*
- **prudent:** showing good sense and using good judgement  
  *It would be prudent to consult a lawyer before you sign the contract.*
- **vigilant:** staying very aware of possible danger  
  *The disease particularly affects young children, so parents must remain vigilant.*
- **wary:** aware of a possible problem with someone or something  
  *I am very wary of any of his ideas for making money.*
- **secretive:** liking to keep things secret  
  *She’s very secretive about her private life.*
- **cagey** *(informal)* not wanting to share information  
  *They’re being very cagey about their relationship.*

**Antonyms:**
- **reckless:** doing something or done without thinking
- **thoughtless:** without thinking about other people
**change** verb

*Synonyms: change, alter, modify, convert, vary, shift, transform*

**change**

to become different, or make something different

*She’s changed so much since I last saw her that I hardly recognised her.* ○ *Living in the country has changed his attitude towards towns.*

**alter**

to become different, or make something different, especially in small ways or in parts only

*They wanted to alter the terms of the contract after they had signed it.* ○ *The shape of his face had altered slightly.*

**modify**

to change something to suit a different situation

*The design was modified to make the car faster.*

**convert**

to change something into a different form, or change something for a different purpose

*We are converting the shed into a studio.* ○ *These panels convert the heat of the sun into electricity.*

**vary**

to be different in different situations, or change within certain limits

*The temperature varies from 8°C at night to 18°C during the day.*

**shift**

to change position or direction

*We’ve shifted the television from the kitchen into the dining room.* ○ *My opinion has shifted since I read the official report.*

**transform**

to change the appearance or character of someone or something completely

*The outside of the building has been transformed by cleaning.* ○ *The book has transformed my views on medical care.*
child noun

Synonyms: child, baby, toddler, teenager, youngster, youth, kid
Antionym: adult

Synonyms:

child
a young boy or girl
*There was no television when my mother was a child.* ☺ *A group of children were playing on the beach.*

baby
a very young child
*Most babies start to walk when they are about a year old.* ☺ *A baby just starting to get its teeth*

toddler
a child who has just learnt to walk
*a playground for toddlers*

teenager
a young person aged between 13 and 19
*She writes stories for teenagers.*

youngster
a young person
*My grandparents don’t understand today’s youngsters.*

youth
a young man
*Gangs of youths were causing trouble in the village.* ☺ *A youth, aged 16, was arrested for possessing drugs.*

kid
(informal) a child
*There were a few school kids on their bicycles.* ☺ *They’re married with two kids.*

Antionym:

adult
a fully-grown person
**clean** adjective

*Synonyms:* clean, pure, spotless, hygienic

*Antonym:* dirty

**Synonyms:**

- **clean**
  - not dirty
  - *Wipe your glasses with a clean handkerchief.* ○ *Tell the waitress these cups aren’t clean.*

- **pure**
  - not spoiled by being mixed with other things or substances of a lower quality
  - *a bottle of pure water* ○ *a pure mountain stream*

- **spotless**
  - completely clean, with no dirty marks at all
  - *The tablecloths must be spotless.* ○ *a spotless white shirt*

- **hygienic**
  - clean and safe because all germs have been destroyed
  - *The food must be stored in hygienic conditions.* ○ *Some areas of the factory didn’t look very hygienic.*

**Antonym:**

- **dirty**
  - not clean
**cold** adjective

*Synonyms:* cold, cool, freezing, frozen, icy  
*Antonyms:* warm, hot, boiling

**Synonyms:**

- **cold**  
  with a low temperature  
  *It’s too cold to go for a walk.*  
  *If you’re hot, have a glass of cold water.*  
  *He had a plate of cold beef and salad.*

- **cool**  
  cold in a pleasant way, or colder than you would like or than you expect  
  *It was hot on deck but nice and cool down below.*  
  *Wines should be stored in a cool cellar.*  
  *The evenings were rather cool, so we sat inside.*

- **freezing**  
  very cold, or close to the temperature at which water freezes  
  *It’s freezing outside.*

- **frozen**  
  at a temperature below that at which water freezes  
  *We went skating on the frozen lake.*

- **icy**  
  covered with ice, or very cold  
  *Be careful, the pavement is icy.*  
  *An icy wind was blowing*

**Antonyms:**

- **warm**  
  fairly hot

- **hot**  
  very warm; with a high temperature

- **boiling**  
  very hot
collect verb

Synonyms: collect, gather, assemble, hoard

**collect**
to bring things or people together, or to come together
*We collected information from all the people who offered to help.* ○ *A crowd collected at the scene of the accident.*

**gather**
to come together in one place, or be brought together by someone
*Groups of people gathered outside the government building.* ○ *They gathered together a team of experienced people for the new project.*

**assemble**
to come together in a place, or to be brought together by someone, especially formally or in an ordered way
*We’ll assemble outside the hotel at 9 a.m.* ○ *They assembled a panel of experts to renew the project.* ○ *Assemble all the items you need for the cake before you start making it.*

**hoard**
to buy and store supplies of something essential that you think you will need in a crisis
*Everyone started hoarding fuel during the strike.*
**competition** noun

*Synonyms: competition, contest, match, game*

**competition**
- an event in which several teams or people compete with each other
  *He won first prize in the photography competition.*

**contest**
- any event or situation in which people compete with each other
  *a beauty contest* ◦ *There are three senior politicians in this leadership contest.*

**match**
- a single occasion when two teams or players compete with each other in a sport
  *We watched the football match on TV.* ◦ *He won the last two tennis matches he played.*

**game**
- an activity in which people compete with each other using skill, strength or luck
  *She’s not very good at games like chess.* ◦ *I enjoy a game of cards.*
complain verb

Synonyms: complain, object, protest, grumble, whine
Antonym: praise

Synonyms:
complain
to say that something is not good or does not work properly
The shop is so cold the staff have started complaining. ○ They are complaining that our prices are too high.

object
to say that you do not like something or you do not want something to happen
We object to being treated like children. ○ He objected that the pay was too low.

protest
to say that you strongly disapprove of something, sometimes by shouting or speaking angrily
Passengers began protesting about the lack of heating on the train. ○ My assistant protested about having to work at the weekend.

grumble
to complain in a bad-tempered way, especially regularly and often about unimportant things
He’s always grumbling about the music from the flat above.

whine
to complain frequently in a way that annoys other people
She’s always whining about how little money she has.

Antonym:

praise
to express strong approval of something or someone
contestant noun

Synonyms: contestant, candidate, candidate, contender, applicant, entrant

candidate
- a person who takes part in a competition
  *The two contestants shook hands before the match.*

applicant
- a person who applies for something
  *job applicants* ○ *Applicants for licences must fill in this form.*

entrant
- a person who takes part in a race, examination or competition
  *There are over a thousand entrants for the race.*
**copy** verb

*Synonyms: copy, reproduce, duplicate, clone, replicate*

**copy**

to make something which looks like something else

*He stole a credit card and copied the signature*

**reproduce**

to make a copy of something such as artistic material or musical sounds

*Some of the paintings have been reproduced in this book. It is very difficult to reproduce the sound of an owl accurately.*

**duplicate**

to make a copy of a document such as a letter

*She duplicated the letter and put the copy into a file.*

**clone**

to create an exact genetic copy of an individual animal or plant

*Biologists have successfully cloned a sheep.*

**replicate**

(formal) to do or make something in exactly the same way as before

*Can the experiment be replicated?*
**correct** adjective

*Synonyms:* correct, accurate, exact, true
*Antonym:* incorrect

**Synonyms:**
- correct
  - without any mistakes
    - Some of your answers were not correct.
- accurate
  - correct in all details
    - *Are the figures accurate?* ○ *We asked them to make an accurate copy of the plan.*
- exact
  - completely correct in every detail
    - *Can you tell me the exact words she used?* ○ *We need to know the exact route she took that night.*
- true
  - correct according to facts or reality
    - *What he says is simply not true.* ○ *Is it true that he’s been married twice?*

**Antonym:**
- incorrect
  - wrong, not correct
**courage** noun

*Synonyms:* courage, bravery, nerve, guts

*Antonym:* cowardice

**Synonyms:**

- **courage**  
  the ability to deal with a dangerous or unpleasant situation
  *She showed great courage in attacking the burglar. ○ I didn’t have the courage to disagree with him.*

- **bravery**  
  the ability to do dangerous or unpleasant things without being afraid
  *We admired her bravery in coping with the illness. ○ He won an award for bravery.*

- **nerve**  
  the ability to keep your fear under control in order to achieve something
  *It takes a lot of nerve to disagree with your friends. ○ He went over to speak to her but at the last minute he lost his nerve.*

- **guts**  
  (informal) courage
  *She had the guts to tell the boss he was wrong.*

**Antonym:**

- **cowardice**  
  the state of being afraid and not brave
**cut** verb

**Synonyms:** cut, slice, chop, slash

**cut**

to divide, reduce or remove something using a sharp tool, e.g. a knife or scissors

*The meat is very tough – I can’t cut it with my knife.*  
*He needs to get his hair cut.*  
*There were six children, so she cut the cake into six pieces.*

**slice**

to cut something into thin pieces

*She stood at the table slicing bread and meat for lunch.*

**chop**

to cut something roughly into small pieces with a knife or other sharp tool

*He spent the afternoon chopping wood for the fire.*

**slash**

to make a long cut in something with a knife, often violently

*He slashed the painting with a kitchen knife.*
dead adjective

Synonyms: dead, late, extinct
Antonyms: alive, live

Synonyms:

dead
not living any more
His parents are both dead. Dead fish were floating in the water.

late
a more polite word than ‘dead’, used about people
His late father was a director of the company.

extinct
no longer in existence, because all of the same kind have died
These birds are in danger of becoming extinct.

Antonyms:

alive
living
(not used in front of a noun: ‘the fish is alive’ but ‘a live fish’)

live
living, not dead
defeat verb

**Synonyms:** defeat, beat, conquer, overcome, triumph, thrash

**defeat**

to succeed against someone in a game, fight or vote

*Our team has not been defeated so far this season.*  ○ *The soldiers defeated the enemy’s attempt to take the town.*  ○ *The ruling party was heavily defeated in the presidential election.*  ○ *The proposal was defeated by 10 votes to 3.*

**beat**

to win a game against another player or team

*They beat their rivals into second place.*  ○ *Our football team beat France 2 – 0.*  ○ *They beat us by 10 goals to 2.*  ○ *My children can usually beat me at tennis.*

**conquer**

to defeat people by force

*The army had conquered most of the country.*

**overcome**

to gain victory over an enemy

*The boys quickly overcame their attackers.*

**triumph**

to achieve a great success

*The team triumphed over their long-term rivals.*

**thrash**

(informal) to defeat another person or team easily

*She expects to be thrashed by the champion.*
dirty adjective

Synonyms: dirty, filthy, grubby, grimy, soiled, squalid
Antonym: clean

Synonyms:
dirty
not clean
Playing rugby gets your clothes dirty. ○ Someone has to wash all the dirty plates.

filthy
very dirty
His hands were filthy from changing the car tyre.

grubby
so dirty as to be unpleasant
Grubby children were playing in the street. ○ He was wearing a grubby old shirt.

grimy
covered with old dirt that is difficult to remove
The furniture was broken and the windows were grimy.

soiled
spoiled by dirt or other unpleasant substances
The sheets on the bed were soiled.

squalid
referring to a room or building that is dirty and unpleasant
The prisoners are kept in squalid conditions.

Antonym:
clean
not dirty
disagree verb

Synonyms: disagree, differ, argue, dispute, contradict
Antonym: agree

Synonyms:

disagree
to say that you do not have the same opinion as someone else
We all disagreed with the chairperson. ○ They disagreed about what to do next.

differ
if people differ, they have different opinions from each other
Our views on education differ. ○ Their accounts of what happened differ in several ways.

argue
to discuss without agreeing, often in a noisy or angry way
They argued over the prices. ○ She argued with the waiter about the bill. ○ I could hear them arguing in the next room.

dispute
to say that you strongly believe that something is not true or correct
I dispute her version of what happened. ○ There is no disputing the fact that Sarah is the best player.

contradict
to say that what someone else says is not true
They didn’t dare contradict their mother.

Antonym:

agree
to say or show that you have the same opinion as someone else
**disapprove** verb

*Synonyms:* disapprove, object, criticise, condemn

*Antonym:* approve

**Synonyms:**

disapprove

to show that you do not think something is good

*The head teacher disapproves of members of staff wearing jeans to school.*

object

to say that you do not like something or you do not want something to happen

*He objected that the pay was too low. ○ I object to her being given this private information.*

criticise

to say that something or someone is bad or wrong

*She criticised their lack of interest and enthusiasm. ○ The design of the new car has been criticised.*

condemn

to say strongly that you do not approve of something

*She condemned the police for their treatment of the prisoners.*

**Antonym:**

approve

to think something is good
dislike noun

Synonyms: dislike, hatred, hate, disgust
Antonym: liking

Synonyms:

dislike
- a feeling of not liking something or someone
  She had a great dislike of noisy parties.

hatred
- a very strong feeling of not liking someone or something
  a hatred of unfair treatment ◦ a campaign against racial hatred

hate
- a very strong feeling of not liking someone
  Her eyes were full of hate.

disgust
- a feeling of dislike that is so strong that you feel angry or slightly ill
  Seeing the dead animals filled her with disgust.

Antonym:

liking
- a feeling of enjoying something
easy  adjective

Synonyms: easy, simple, straightforward, uncomplicated
Antonyms: hard, difficult

Synonyms:

easy
not difficult, or not needing a lot of effort
The test was easier than I expected. ☺ My boss is very easy to get on with.

simple
easy to do or understand
The machine is very simple to use.

straightforward
easy to understand or carry out
The instructions are quite straightforward.

uncomplicated
easy to deal with or understand
In children’s books, the writing should be clear and uncomplicated. ☺ The procedure is relatively quick and uncomplicated.

Antonyms:

hard
not easy

difficult
not easy to do or achieve
fail verb

Synonyms: fail, neglect, forget, omit, overlook

fail
not to do something
The car failed to stop at the red light. ○ She failed to tell us of her change of address.

neglect
not to do something that should have been done
He neglected to tell the police that he had been involved in an accident.

forget
not to remember
He’s forgotten the name of the restaurant. ○ I’ve forgotten how to play chess. ○ She forgot all about her doctor’s appointment.

omit
to leave something out, especially something that is helpful or important
She omitted the date when she signed the contract. ○ They omitted to tell me the price of the ticket.

overlook
not to notice something
She overlooked several mistakes when she was correcting the exam papers.
famous adjective

Synonyms: famous, well-known, renowned, infamous, notorious
Antonym: unknown

Synonyms:
famous
known to many people, especially most people in a place or country
a famous department store  He’s a famous footballer.

well-known
known by a lot of people
It’s a well-known fact that oil and water don’t mix. She used to work for a well-known London hairdresser.

renowned
known and admired by many people
the renowned Italian singer

infamous
famous for being bad or unpleasant
He was sent to the infamous prison on the island.

notorious
known for bad qualities, or for doing bad things
He was a member of a notorious criminal gang.

Antonym:
unknown
not known for anything important or interesting
fat adjective

Synonyms: fat, plump, overweight, obese
Antonyms: slim, thin

Synonyms:

fat
having too much flesh or weighing too much
*You’ll have to eat less – you’re getting too fat.* ◇ a doll with a fat face

plump
slightly fat in an attractive way
*the baby’s plump little arms* ◇ *She’s grown plumper now she’s stopped smoking.*

overweight
having a body that weighs too much
*The doctor says I’m a little overweight.*

obese
so fat that it is dangerous for health reasons
*Many children are becoming obese because of their unhealthy diets.*

Antonyms:

thin
not fat

slim
with a body that is thin in an attractive way
fatal adjective

Synonyms: fatal, lethal, deadly, mortal, terminal

fatal
causing people to die

*There were three fatal accidents on this road last year.*

lethal
dangerous and able to kill someone

*a lethal dose of painkillers ○ a lethal mixture of drugs and alcohol ○ Being out in the sun too long can be lethal.*

deadly
likely to cause people to die

*The terrorists turned the car into a deadly weapon.*

mortal
referring to injury serious enough to cause someone to die

*a mortal wound*

terminal
referring to the last period of a serious illness that will lead to death

*The condition is terminal. ○ terminal cancer*
fight **noun**

*Synonyms: fight, battle, war, conflict*

**fight**
- an occasion on which people try to hurt each other or knock each other down
  - He got into a fight with boys who were bigger than him. ○ Fights broke out between the protesters and the police.

**battle**
- an occasion when large groups of soldiers fight each other using powerful weapons
  - Many soldiers died in the first battle of the war. ○ the Battle of Hastings

**war**
- a period of fighting between countries
  - Millions of soldiers and civilians were killed during the war.

**conflict**
- a war, or fighting as part of a war
  - the violent conflict between the neighbouring republics ○ The government is engaged in armed conflict with rebel forces.
find  verb

*Synonyms:* find, discover, come across, encounter

*Antonym:* lose

**find**

to see where something hidden or lost is after looking for it

*I found a £2 coin behind the sofa.  Did she find the book she was looking for?*

**discover**

to find something new or to learn something for the first time

*Which scientist discovered penicillin?  We discovered that house had already been sold.*

**come across** *(informal)* to find something by chance

*I came across this old photo when I was clearing out a drawer.*

**encounter** *(formal)* to meet someone or something unexpectedly

*On the journey we encountered several amusing people.  I have never encountered such hospitality anywhere else.*

**Antonym:**

**lose**

to put or drop something somewhere and not to know where it is
**follow** verb

**Synonyms:** follow, chase, pursue, stalk  
**Antonym:** lead  

**Synonyms:**

follow  
—to come after or behind someone or something  
*What letter follows B in the alphabet? ○ The dog followed me all the way home.*

chase  
—to go after someone in order to try to catch him or her  
*They chased the burglars down the street.*

pursue  
*(formal)* to go after someone in order to try to catch him or her  
*The police pursued the stolen car across London. ○ The boys fled, pursued by their older brother.*

stalk  
—to stay near or follow someone and watch him or her all the time, especially in a way that is frightening or upsetting, or to follow an animal in order to kill it  
*She told the police that a man was stalking her. ○ The hunters stalked the deer for several miles.*

**Antonym:**

lead  
—to go in front to show someone the way
**fragile** adjective

*Synonyms:* fragile, delicate, breakable, flimsy  
*Antonyms:* sturdy, strong

**Synonyms:**

- **fragile**  
  made from materials that are easily broken  
  *Be careful when you’re packing these plates – they’re very fragile.*

- **delicate**  
  made from materials that are thin and light and easily damaged  
  *a delicate fabric ○ delicate skin*

- **breakable**  
  that can break easily  
  *glasses and other breakable items*

- **flimsy**  
  likely to break because of being badly made  
  *The shelter was a flimsy construction of bamboo and leaves.*

**Antonyms:**

- **sturdy**  
  well made and not easily damaged

- **strong**  
  with a lot of strength and not easy to damage
friend noun

Synonyms: friend, acquaintance, companion, mate, pal
Antonym: stranger

Synonyms:
friend
a person that you know well and like
She’s my best friend. We’re going on holiday with some friends from work.

acquaintance
a person you know slightly
She has many acquaintances at the sports club but no real friends.

companion
a person who is with someone
She turned to her companion and said a few words. My travelling companion spent the whole journey sleeping.

mate
(informal) a friend, especially a man’s friend
He’s gone to the pub with his mates.

pal
(dated informal) a friend
She’s meeting some old school pals for lunch.

Antonym:
stranger
a person whom you have never met
funny adjective

Synonyms: funny, comic, comical, humorous, witty, hilarious
Antonyms: serious, solemn

Synonyms:

funny
making people laugh
He made funny faces and all the children laughed. ○ That joke isn’t funny.

comic
intended to make people laugh, especially as a performance
a comic poem ○ a comic act

comical
strange or silly in a way that makes people laugh
He looked rather comical wearing his dad’s jacket.

humorous
funny in a quiet way, making people smile rather than laugh
a humorous story about his last visit to the dentist ○ Some of her comments were rather humorous.

witty
clever and funny
She gave a witty and entertaining speech.

hilarious
extremely funny
I thought the play was hilarious.

Antonyms:

serious
not funny or not joking

solemn
serious and formal
**get** verb

*Synonyms: get, obtain, gain, secure, acquire*

**get**
- to receive something
  
  *We got a letter from the bank this morning. ○ She gets more money than I do.*

**obtain**
- to take action to get something
  
  *She obtained a copy of the will. ○ He obtained control of the business.*

**gain**
- to get something as a result of some work or effort
  
  *The army gained control of the country. ○ She gained some useful experience working for a computer company.*

**secure**
- to be successful in getting something important
  
  *He secured the support of a big bank. ○ They secured a valuable new contract.*

**acquire**
*(formal)* to become the owner of something

*She has acquired a large collection of old books.*
give verb

Synonyms: give, present, confer, donate, grant

Antonyms: take, steal

Synonyms:

give
to pass or send something to someone
Give me another envelope, please. Can you give me some information about holidays in Greece?

present
to give something formally to someone
His boss presented him with a large report to read. When he retired, the firm presented him with a large clock.

confer
(formal) to give something such as a responsibility, legal right or honour to someone
the powers conferred on the council by law

donate
to give something, especially money, to a charity or similar organisation
He donated a lot of money to a charity for the homeless.

grant
(formal) to give someone something they want, especially officially
The council has granted the school permission to build a new hall.

Antonyms:
take
to go away with something which someone else was using

steal
to take and keep something that belongs to another person without permission
**go** verb

*Synonyms: go, leave, depart, set off, disappear*

*Antonym: come*

**Synonyms:**

goto move from one place to another

*The plane goes to Frankfurt, then to Rome.* ◎ *She was going downstairs when she fell.* ◎ *He has gone to work in Washington.*

leave
to go away from a place

*She left home at 9 o'clock this morning.* ◎ *When they couldn’t find what they wanted, they left the shop.*

depart
(formal) to go away from a place

*The coach departs from Victoria Coach Station at 09.00.*

set off
to begin a trip

*We’re setting off for Germany tomorrow.* ◎ *They all set off on a long walk after lunch.*

disappear
to leave a place, often suddenly and without people noticing or knowing where you have gone

*Where have the kids disappeared to?* ◎ *Half the guests have disappeared already.*

*Antonym:*

come
to move to or towards a place
good adjective

Synonyms: good, satisfactory, acceptable, excellent, wonderful
Antonyms: bad, poor

Synonyms:

good
of a suitable standard
It would be a good idea to invest in these shares. ○ Did you have a good
time at the party?

satisfactory
quite good, or as good as expected
Are the arrangements for your holiday satisfactory?

acceptable
good enough by the usual standards, although not particularly good
Fighting in the street is not acceptable behaviour. ○ Would an offer of £50
be acceptable to you?

excellent
very good
We had an excellent meal in a Chinese restaurant. ○ Her handwriting is
excellent – it is much clearer than mine.

wonderful
extremely good or enjoyable
They had a wonderful holiday. ○ The weather was wonderful. ○ You passed
your driving test first time? – Wonderful!

Antonyms:

bad
not of a suitable standard

poor
of a low standard
good-looking adjective

Synonyms: good-looking, attractive, beautiful, handsome, lovely, pretty
Antonyms: unattractive, ugly

Synonyms:
good-looking
having an attractive face
His sister is a very good-looking girl. ○ He’s not especially good-looking.

attractive
with pleasant physical features, or pleasant to look at
They found the mountain scenery very attractive. ○ She’s an attractive woman.

beautiful
physically very attractive, or pleasant to look at
We have three beautiful daughters. ○ The house stands in beautiful surrounding.

handsome
a handsome man or boy has an attractive face
Her boyfriend is very handsome.

lovely
very pleasant to look at
She looks lovely in that dress. ○ There’s a lovely garden behind the house.

pretty
a pretty woman or girl has a face that is quite attractive
Her daughters are very pretty.

Antonyms:
unattractive
not attractive

ugly
unpleasant to look at
**group** noun

Synonyms: group, crowd, gang, mob

Antonym: individual

**Synonyms:**

- group (noun) - a number of people together
  - She is leading a group of businessmen on a tour of Italian factories.
  - There are reduced prices for groups of 30 and over.
  - The teacher divides the children into groups for different activities.

- crowd (noun) - a very large number of people together
  - A crowd of football supporters went past.
  - Crowds of people were gathering outside the cinema.
  - Let’s get an early train home to avoid the crowds after work.

- gang (noun) - a group of young people who do things together, especially one that causes trouble
  - Gangs of teenage boys wander the streets.

- mob (noun) - a large number of people behaving in a noisy, angry or uncontrolled way
  - Mobs of reporters follow the star wherever she goes.
  - An angry mob surged towards the gates of the government building.

**Antonym:**

- individual (noun) - a single person
guide verb

Synonyms: guide, direct, lead, steer, conduct

guide
   to show someone the way to somewhere
   *She guided us up the steps in the dark.*

direct
   to tell someone how to get to a place
   *Can you direct me to the nearest post office?*

lead
   to go in front to show someone the way
   *She led us into the hall.*

steer
   to make a person or vehicle go in a particular direction
   *We steered the children quickly away from the barking dogs.* o *She steered the car into the garage.*

conduct
   (formal) to take someone to a place
   *The guests were conducted to their seats.*
habit noun

Synonyms: habit, custom, tradition, practice, routine

habit
something that someone does regularly
He has the habit of biting his fingernails.

custom
something that people usually do, or have done for a long time
It’s their custom to invite all their neighbours to a party at New Year. ○ the local custom of decorating the wells in spring

tradition
beliefs, stories and ways of doing things which are passed from one generation to the next
According to local tradition, the queen died in this bed. ○ It’s a family tradition for the eldest son to take over the business.

practice
a way of doing something, especially a way that is regularly used
It’s standard practice for shops to stay open later on Saturdays. ○ It’s always been our practice to walk the dogs before breakfast.

routine
the usual, regular way of doing things
He doesn’t like his daily routine to be disturbed. ○ A change of routine might do you good.
**hard** adjective

*Synonyms:* hard, difficult, awkward, tough, tricky

*Antonyms:* easy, simple

**Synonyms:**

*hard*
- not easy
  - Some of the questions were very hard. ○ It’s hard to stay happy when bad things happen.

*difficult*
- not easy to do or achieve
  - Finding a parking space is difficult on Saturdays. ○ I find it difficult to work when I’m tired.

*awkward*
- hard to use, deal with or carry out because of shape, size or position
  - I find the handle rather awkward to hold comfortably. ○ Some of the movements you have to do are quite awkward.

*tough*
- requiring a lot of effort, bravery or confidence
  - She’s very good at taking tough decisions.

*tricky*
- requiring a lot of skill, patience or intelligence
  - Getting the wire through the little hole is quite tricky. ○ It was tricky to get the right tone of regret in the letter.

**Antonyms:**

*easy*
- not difficult, or not needing a lot of effort

*simple*
- easy to do or understand
harm verb

Synonyms: harm, damage, hurt, injure, wound

harm
to physically affect something or someone in a bad way
_Luckily, the little girl was not harmed._ ◎ _The bad publicity has harmed our reputation._

damage
to break, partially destroy or badly affect something
_A large number of shops were damaged in the fire._ ◎ _These glasses are easily damaged._ ◎ _His career was badly damaged by the newspaper reports._

hurt
to have pain, or to cause someone to feel pain
_My tooth hurts._ ◎ _No one was badly hurt in the accident._ ◎ _Did you hurt your leg when you fell?_

injure
to cause pain or damage to someone or to a part of the body
_He injured his back playing rugby._

wound
to hurt someone badly by cutting into their flesh
_Two of the gang were shot and wounded in the bank robbery._ ◎ _The attacker pulled a knife, wounding him on the arm._
help noun

Synonyms: help, support, assistance, aid

help
   something which makes it easier for you to do something
   Do you need any help with moving the furniture?  o  Her assistant is not much help in the office – he can’t type or drive.

support
   help or encouragement
   I’m grateful for the support of friends and family.  o  We have had no financial support from the bank.

assistance
   help
   He asked if he could be of any assistance.  o  She will need assistance with her luggage.  o  He was trying to change the wheel when a truck driver offered his assistance.

aid
   help, especially money, food or other gifts given to people living in difficult conditions
   aid to the earthquake zone  o  an aid worker
hesitate verb

Synonyms: hesitate, pause, stumble, waver

hesitate

to be slow to speak or make a decision
He hesitated for a moment and then said ‘no’. ○ She’s hesitating about whether to accept the job.

pause

to stop or rest for a short time before continuing
She paused for a second to look at her watch.

stumble

to make mistakes when reading aloud or speaking
She stumbled a little when she had to read the foreign words.

waver

to be unable to decide what to do
He is still waveriing about whether or not to leave the company.
increase verb

Synonyms: increase, expand, enlarge, extend
Antonyms: decrease, drop

Synonyms:

increase
to make a level or amount higher
The boss increased her salary. The number of soldiers in the area has been increased to fifty thousand.

expand
to increase the size or extent of something
We have plans to expand our business.

enlarge
to make something bigger
We need to enlarge our house now that we have four children. Could you enlarge this photograph?

extend
to make something longer or bigger
We are planning to extend our stay in London. The company has extended my contract for another two years. We’re going to extend our kitchen.

Antonyms:

decrease
to become less

drop
to decrease
intelligent adjective

Synonyms: intelligent, bright, clever, able, talented, gifted
Antonyms: stupid, unintelligent

Synonyms:

intelligent
able to understand and learn things very well
He’s the most intelligent child in his class.

bright
young and intelligent
Both children are very bright. ○ She’s the brightest student we’ve had for many years.

clever
able to think and learn quickly
Clever children can usually do this by the time they are eight years old.

able
good at doing something, or good at doing many things.
She’s a very able manager. ○ There are special activities for able children.

talented
with a lot of artistic ability
He’s a very talented writer.

gifted
very clever at something
He was a gifted mathematician.

Antonyms:

stupid
not able to understand or consider things well

unintelligent
showing a lack of intelligence
job noun

Synonyms: job, assignment, task, chore, duty

job
a specific piece of work
The children help with little jobs around the house.

assignment
a piece of work that has to be done in a specific time
My literature assignment has to be finished by Wednesday. He was given the assignment of reporting on the war.

task
something, especially a piece of work, that has to be done
Once I had finished my regular tasks I went home. He was given the unpleasant task of telling his mother about it.

chore
a piece of routine work, for example cleaning in a house, that you have to do
household chores

duty
different jobs that have to be done as part of your official work
One of his duties is to lock the doors at night.
**kill** verb

*Synonyms: kill, murder, assassinate, execute, slaughter, put down*

**kill**
- to make someone or something die
  - *Sixty people were killed in the plane crash. A long period of dry weather could kill all the crops.*

**murder**
- to kill someone deliberately
  - *He was accused of murdering a policeman.*

**assassinate**
- to kill a famous person, especially for political reasons
  - *They were shocked by the news that the President had been assassinated.*

**execute**
- to kill someone as a legal punishment for a crime, or for something they have done
  - *Some countries still execute murderers. The government’s political enemies were executed.*

**slaughter**
- to kill many people or animals at the same time, or to kill an animal for its meat
  - *Thousands of civilians were slaughtered by the advancing army.*

**put down**
- to kill an animal that is old or ill painlessly, using drugs
  - *The cat will have to be put down.*
knowledge noun

Synonyms: knowledge, information, wisdom
Antonym: ignorance

Synonyms:
knowledge
the general facts or information that people know
We were impressed by her knowledge of the subject.

information
a set of facts about something
She couldn’t give the police any information about how the accident happened. He gave me a very useful piece or bit of information. For further information, please write to Department 27.

wisdom
knowledge about life, especially about how to deal with situations and people
Their leaders were women of great wisdom.

Antonym:
ignorance
a state of not knowing
lack noun

Synonyms: lack, shortage, deficiency, deficit

lack
the fact that you do not have something
The children are suffering from a lack of food. ○ The project was cancelled through lack of funds.

shortage
the fact that you do not have something you need
a shortage of skilled staff ○ During the war, there were food shortages.

deficiency
not enough of something needed to make someone or something healthy or complete
Their diet has a deficiency of calcium or has a calcium deficiency.

deficit
an amount by which something is less than it should be
The company announced a two-million-pound deficit in its accounts.
language noun

Synonyms: language, speech, dialect, slang, vocabulary, jargon

language
a way of speaking or writing used in a country or by a group of people
We go to English language classes twice a week. o She can speak several European languages.

speech
the ability to say words, or the act of saying words
His speech has been affected by brain damage. o Some of these expressions are only used in speech, not in writing.

dialect
a variety of a language spoken in a particular area
They were speaking in a local dialect.

slang
popular words or phrases used by certain groups of people, but which are not used in formal situations
Don’t use slang in your essay. o Slang expressions are sometimes difficult to understand.

vocabulary
all the words used by a person or group of persons
She reads French newspapers to improve her French vocabulary. o specialist legal vocabulary

jargon
a special type of language used by a trade or profession or a particular group of people
People are confused by computers because they don’t understand the jargon.
leader noun

Synonyms: leader, boss, manager, employer, supervisor, captain

leader
a person who is in charge of an organisation such as a political party
He is the leader of the local council. o the leader of the construction workers’ union

boss
the person in charge, especially the owner of a business
If you want a day off, ask the boss. o I left because I didn’t get on with my boss.

manager
the person in charge of a department in a shop or in a business
The bank manager wants to talk about your account. o She’s the manager of the shoe department.

employer
a person or organisation that gives work to people and pays them
Her employer was a Hong Kong businessman. o The car factory is the biggest employer in the area.

supervisor
a person whose job is making sure that other people are working well
The supervisor has told us to work faster.

captain
a person in charge of a team
The two captains shook hands at the beginning of the match.
learn verb

Synonyms: learn, memorise, master, pick up
Antonym: teach

Synonyms:

learn
- to find out about something, or about how to do something
  *He’s learning to ride a bicycle.* ◎ *We learn French and German at school.*

memorise
- to learn something thoroughly so that you know and can repeat all of it
  *At school, we memorised a new poem every week.*

master
- to become skilled at something
  *Although he’s a good cook, he still hasn’t mastered the art of making bread.*

pick up
- to learn something easily without being taught
  *She never took any piano lessons – she just picked it up.* ◎ *He picked up some German when he was working in Germany.*

Antonym:

teach
- to show someone how to do something
**legal** *adjective*

**Synonyms:** legal, licensed, valid, legitimate, lawful  
**Antonym:** illegal

**Synonyms:**

- **legal**  
  allowed by the law  
  *It's legal to drive at 17 years old in the UK.*

- **licensed**  
  given official permission to do something  
  *Buy goods only from licensed dealers.*

- **valid**  
  able to be used only for a specific time  
  *Your ticket is no longer valid.*

- **legitimate**  
  fair and reasonable, or allowed by the law  
  *They have legitimate concerns about the project.*

- **lawful**  
  *(formal)* allowed by the law  
  *Their behaviour was perfectly lawful.*

**Antonym:**

- **illegal**  
  against the law
lie noun

Synonyms: lie, fib, white lie, falsehood, fabrication
Antonym: truth

Synonyms:
lie
something that is not true
That’s a lie! – I didn’t say that!
Someone has been telling lies about her.

fib
(informal) a lie about something unimportant
He told a fib about where he’d been so he wouldn’t get into trouble.

white lie
a lie about something unimportant, especially a lie told in order not to upset someone
I told a white lie, saying I was visiting my mother and couldn’t go for a drink with him.

falsehood
(literary) a lie
It appears that he had told several falsehoods under oath.

fabrication
an invented story that is not true
The newspaper story was a complete fabrication from start to finish.

Antonym:

truth
things which are true
like verb

**Synonyms:** like, enjoy, love, appreciate

**Antonyms:** dislike, hate

**Synonyms:**

like

to have pleasant feelings about someone or something

_Do you like the new manager? ○ She doesn’t like eating meat. ○ In the evening, I like to sit quietly and read the newspaper._

enjoy

to get pleasure from something

_Have you enjoyed the holiday so far? ○ She doesn’t enjoy sailing because it make her seasick._

love

to like someone or something very much

_The children love their new baby brother. ○ We love going on holiday to the seaside. ○ I’d love to come with you, but I’ve got too much work to do._

appreciate

to be pleased about or grateful for something

_Shoppers always appreciate a bargain. ○ Customers don’t appreciate having to wait to be served._

**Antonyms:**

dislike

not to like something or someone

hate

to dislike someone or something very much
love noun

Synonyms: love, liking, affection, fondness, passion, infatuation
Antonym: hatred

Synonyms:

love
a strong feeling of liking someone or something very much
I had never felt such love for anyone before.  ○ In the book he writes about his love for his children.

liking
a feeling of enjoying something
She has a liking for chocolate.  ○ This drink is too sweet for my liking.

affection
a feeling of liking someone, especially a friend
She always spoke of her neighbour with great affection.

fondness
a gentle feeling of liking someone or something
She remembered her aunt with fondness.  ○ my fondness for cakes and chocolate

passion
a very strong feeling of love, especially sexual love
He couldn’t hide the passion he felt for her.

infatuation
a sudden strong feeling of love for someone, especially someone you do not know very well or someone who does not love you
Eventually his infatuation for his friend’s wife passed.

Antonym:

hatred
a very strong feeling of not liking someone or something
meal noun

Synonyms: meal, snack, feast, picnic, barbecue, takeaway

meal
an occasion when people eat food, or the food that is eaten
You sleep better if you only eat a light meal in the evening. ◄ Hotel guests can have their meals in their room if they wish.

snack
a light meal, or a small amount of food eaten between meals
We didn’t have time to stop for a proper lunch, so we just had a snack on the motorway.

feast
a very large meal for a group of people, especially one eaten to celebrate a special occasion
This is quite a feast you’ve prepared for us. ◄ a wedding feast

picnic
a meal eaten outdoors away from home
If it’s fine, let’s go for a picnic. ◄ They stopped by a wood and had a picnic lunch.

barbecue
a meal or party where food is cooked out of doors
We’ll have a barbecue this weekend, if the weather’s fine.

takeaway
a hot meal that you buy in a shop and eat somewhere else
Does the Chinese restaurant do takeaways?
mistake noun

_Synonyms: mistake, error, slip, blunder_

mistake
   an act or belief that is wrong
   *There are lots of mistakes in this essay. ○ You’ve made a mistake – my name is David, not John.*

error
   something that is wrong, especially a mistake in writing or speaking
   *There isn’t a single error in the whole document. ○ The waiter made an error on the bill.*

slip
   a small, often careless mistake that isn’t very important
   *Don’t worry about that. It was just a slip. ○ He made a few slips in his calculations.*

blunder
   a big mistake, often one that causes a lot of embarrassment
   *A dreadful blunder by the goalkeeper allowed their opponents to score.*
**mixture** noun

*Synonyms: mixture, blend, combination, compound*

**mixture**
a number of things mixed together
*a mixture of flour, fat and water*

**blend**
something, especially a substance, made by mixing different things together
*different blends of coffee*

**combination**
several things joined or considered together
*A combination of bad weather and illness made our holiday a disaster.*

**compound**
a chemical made up of two or more elements
*Water is a compound of two gases, hydrogen and oxygen.*
moving adjective

Synonyms: moving, emotional, pathetic, stirring, touching

moving
making you feel emotion
a moving story about a girl who finally finds her real parents ○ The funeral was very moving.

emotional
causing you to feel emotion, or showing emotion
We said an emotional farewell to our son. ○ The music made her feel very emotional and she started to cry.

pathetic
making you feel sympathy
She looked a pathetic figure standing in the rain.

stirring
making you feel strong emotions, especially pride or enthusiasm
a stirring tune ○ Some of his speeches are very stirring.

touching
making you feel emotion, especially affection or sympathy
I had a touching letter from my sister, thanking me for my help when she was ill.
naked adjective

Synonyms: naked, bare, nude, undressed

naked
not wearing clothes
The little children were playing in the river stark naked. ○ A naked man was standing on the balcony.

bare
not covered by clothes or shoes
He walked on the beach in his bare feet. ○ I can’t sit in the sun with my arms bare.

nude
not wearing clothes, especially in situations where people are expected to wear some clothes
Nude sunbathing is not allowed on this beach. ○ She has appeared nude on stage several times.

undressed
having just taken off your clothes, usually to put on other clothes or clothes for sleeping in
The children are undressed ready for bed.
necessary adjective

Synonyms: necessary, essential, vital, required
Antonym: unnecessary

Synonyms:

necessary
which must be done
Don’t phone me in the evening unless it’s absolutely necessary. ○ Is it necessary to finish the work today?

essential
which cannot be omitted or avoided
You can survive without food for some time, but water is essential. ○ It is essential that we get the delivery on time.

vital
extremely important
It is vital that we act quickly. ○ Good transport is vital to my plan.

required
which must be done or provided because of rules or regulations
We can cut the wood to the required length. ○ We can’t reply because we don’t have the required information.

Antonym:

unnecessary
which is not needed, or which does not have to be done
new adjective

Synonyms: new, novel, innovative, fresh, brand-new, original
Antonyms: old, old-fashioned

Synonyms:

new
made very recently, or never used before
Put some new paper in the printer. ☺ The new version of the software is now available.

novel
new and unusual
Visiting New York is a novel experience for me.

innovative
new in a way that has not been tried before
a very innovative design

fresh
new and different
The police produced some fresh evidence.

brand-new
completely new
You’ve got mud all over your brand-new shoes!

original
new and interesting
The planners have produced some very original ideas for the new town centre.

Antonyms:

old
having existed for a long time

old-fashioned
no longer in fashion
next adjective

Synonyms: next, nearby, neighbouring, adjacent

next
neatest in place
*The ball went over the fence into the next garden.* ○ *She took the next seat to mine.*

nearby
not far away
*They met in a nearby restaurant.*

neighbouring
which is close to you
*people from the neighbouring villages*

adjacent
very close to or almost touching something
*My office is in an adjacent building.*
**noisy** *adjective*

*Synonyms:* noisy, loud, deafening, piercing, rowdy

*Antonyms:* quiet, silent

**Synonyms:**

- noisy
  - making a lot of noise
  - a crowd of noisy little boys
  - The hotel overlooks a noisy road.
  - This machine is noisier than the old one.

- loud
  - very easy to hear
  - Can’t you stop your watch making such a loud noise?
  - Turn down the radio – it’s too loud.

- deafening
  - so loud as to make you unable to hear
  - The noise was absolutely deafening.

- piercing
  - unpleasantly high and loud
  - They suddenly heard a piercing cry.

- rowdy
  - involving people who are making a lot of noise
  - A rowdy party in the flat next door kept us all awake.
  - The minister had a rowdy reception at the meeting.

**Antonyms:**

- quiet
  - with very little or no noise

- silent
  - not talking or making any noise
NOW adverb

Synonyms: now, presently, immediately, instantly, promptly

Antonym: then

Synonyms:

now
  at or around this point in time
  I can hear a train coming now. ○ The flight is only two hours – he ought to be in Berlin by now.

presently
  now, or in a short time
  He’s presently working for a chemical company. ○ The doctor’s busy just now, but will be able to see you presently.

immediately
  very soon, or very soon after an event
  Please hurry. We must leave immediately. ○ He got my letter and wrote back immediately.

instantly
  so soon after an event that no time appears to have passed in between
  Her mood changed instantly.

promptly
  very soon after an event, in a way that is helpful or efficient
  The phone rang and she answered promptly.

Antonym:

then
  at that time in the past or future
**occasional adjective**

*Synonyms:* occasional, periodic, intermittent, odd

*Antonyms:* frequent, regular

**Synonyms:**
- occasional
  - happening sometimes, but not very often
  - *He was an occasional visitor to my parents’ house.*
  - *We make the occasional trip to London.*

- periodic
  - repeated after a regular period of time
  - *periodic attacks of the illness* 
  - *We carry out periodic reviews of the company’s financial position.*

- intermittent
  - stopping and starting in an irregular way
  - *Intermittent showers are expected over the weekend.*

- odd
  - done only rarely or occasionally
  - *I’ve only been to the odd concert in the last few years.*
  - *On the odd occasions I’ve met him, he’s seemed very nice.*

**Antonyms:**
- frequent
  - happening or appearing often

- regular
  - done at the same time each day
often adverb

Synonyms: often, frequently, repeatedly, regularly, again and again
Antonyms: seldom, rarely

Synonyms:

often
on many different occasions
I often have to go to town on business. ○ Do you eat beef often? ○ How often is there a bus to Richmond?

frequently
on many occasions
During the talk she frequently asked questions. ○ She could frequently be seen walking her dog in the park.

repeatedly
very many times, especially so many that it is annoying
I have repeatedly asked them to make less noise.

regularly
on most occasions
She is regularly the first person to arrive at the office.

again and again
several times, usually in a firm or determined way
The police officer asked the same question again and again.

Antonyms:

seldom
not often

rarely
almost never
old adjective

Synonyms: old, ancient, elderly, antique, old-fashioned
Antonyms: young, new

Synonyms:

old
having had a long life, or having existed for a long time
When I’m older, I’ll probably be bald. ○ My uncle is now quite an old man.
○ He collects old cars. ○ We watched some old films. ○ Throw away that old shirt.

ancient
very old, or belonging to a time long ago
He was riding an ancient bicycle. ○ the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome

elderly
a more polite word than ‘old’ used for describing someone who has had a long life
An elderly man sat down beside her. ○ My mother is now rather elderly and doesn’t drive any more.

antique
old and valuable
an antique Chinese vase

old-fashioned
no longer in fashion
She wore old-fashioned clothes.

Antonyms:

young
not old

new
made very recently, or never used before
**perform** *verb*

*Synonyms: perform, carry out, fulfil, execute*

**perform**
- to do an action
  
  *She performed a perfect dive.*  
  *It’s the sort of task that can be performed by any computer.*

**carry out**
- to do something, especially something that has been planned
  
  *Doctors carried out the tests on every patient.*  
  *The police carried out a search for the missing boys.*

**fulfil**
- to complete something in a satisfactory way
  
  *He died before he could fulfil his ambition to fly a plane.*  
  *We are so busy that we cannot fulfil any more orders before Christmas.*

**execute**
- *(formal)* to do something that has been planned or agreed
  
  *As part of the test, drivers are asked to execute an emergency stop.*
**protect** *verb*

*Synonyms: protect, defend, guard, shield, shelter*

*Antonym: neglect*

**Synonyms:**

- protect
  to keep someone or something safe from harm or danger
  - *The cover protects the machine against dust.*
  - *The injection is supposed to protect you against the disease.*

- defend
  to protect a person or place that is being attacked
  - *They brought in extra troops to defend the city against attack.*

- guard
  to watch someone, something or somewhere carefully to prevent attacks or escapes
  - *The prison is guarded at all times.*

- shield
  to protect someone or something from being reached or seen
  - *He tried to shield her from the wind.*

- shelter
  to give someone, or go somewhere for, protection for a short time
  - *The school sheltered several families of whose houses had been flooded.*
  - *Sheep were sheltering from the snow beside the hedge.*

**Antonym:**

- neglect
  to fail to look after someone or something properly
proud adjective

Synonyms: proud, arrogant, conceited, vain
Antonyms: ashamed, modest

Synonyms:

proud
showing pleasure in what you or someone else has done or in something which belongs to you
We’re proud of the fact we did it all without help from anyone else. ○ You should feel proud to belong to such a successful club.

arrogant
very proud in an unpleasant way
He’s such an arrogant young man. ○ What an arrogant way to treat customers!

conceited
thinking that you are better, more intelligent, or more talented than other people
He’s the most conceited and selfish person I’ve ever known.

vain
very pleased with your own appearance or achievements
He’s always combing his hair – he’s very vain.

Antonyms:

ashamed
embarrassed and sorry for something that you have done or not done

modest
not telling other people about your achievements
pull verb

Synonyms: pull, drag, draw, haul, tow, tug, jerk
Antonym: push

Synonyms:
pull
to move something towards you or after you
Pull the door to open it, don’t push it. ○ The truck was pulling a trailer. ○ She pulled an envelope out of her bag.
drag
to pull something heavy along the ground
She dragged her suitcase across the floor. ○ The police dragged the men away from the gate.
draw
to pull something gently, especially to pull curtains open or closed
She drew the papers towards her across the desk. ○ He drew the curtains and let in the sun.
haul
to pull something with effort
They hauled the boat up onto the beach.
tow
to pull something behind a vehicle
The motorways were crowded with cars towing caravans. ○ They towed the ship into port.
tug
to give something a sudden hard pull
He tugged on the rope and a bell rang.
jerk
to suddenly pull something hard, sometimes causing pain or injury
He jerked the rope out of my hands. ○ The smell made her jerk her head backwards.

Antonym:
push
to make something move away from you or in front of you
quiet adjective

Synonyms: quiet, silent, noiseless, inaudible, peaceful, uncommunicative
Antonyms: noisy, loud

Synonyms:
quiet
with little or no noise
I wish the children would be quiet. – I’m trying to work. ○ a house in a quiet street

silent
not talking or making any noise
He kept silent for the whole meeting. ○ This new washing machine is almost silent. ○ They showed some old silent films.

noiseless
making no noise
The engine is virtually noiseless.

inaudible
too quiet to be heard by humans
Her whisper was almost inaudible.

peaceful
enjoyable because there is very little noise or activity
We spent a peaceful afternoon by the river.

uncommunicative
not saying much, or not answering people

Antonyms:
noisy
who or which makes a lot of noise

loud
very easy to hear
raise verb

Synonyms: raise, lift, hoist, pick up, elevate
Antonyms: lower, drop

Synonyms:
raise
to put something in a higher position or at a higher level
He picked up the flag and raised it over his head. ○ Air fares will be raised on June 1st.

lift
to take something and put it in a higher position
My briefcase is so heavy I can hardly lift it. ○ He lifted the little girl up so that she could see the procession.

hoist
to lift something or someone using special equipment or a lot of force
He hoisted the sack onto his shoulder. ○ The box was hoisted up on a rope. ○ It’s time to hoist the flag.

pick up
to take something that is lying on a surface and lift it in your hand
She dropped her handkerchief and he picked it up. ○ He picked up a magazine and started to read it.

elevate
(formal) to lift something into a higher position
They watched as the statue was slowly elevated into position.

Antonyms:
lower
to make something go down

drop
to fall or let something fall
sad adjective

Synonyms: sad, unhappy, miserable, depressed, fed up
Antonyms: happy, cheerful

Synonyms:
sad
not cheerful
He’s sad because the holidays have come to an end. ○ What a sad film – everyone was crying. ○ It’s sad that he can’t come to see us.

unhappy
feeling upset, or making someone feel upset
The children had an unhappy childhood. ○ She looked very unhappy as she read the letter.

miserable
very sad
She’s really miserable since her boyfriend left her.

depressed
so unhappy that you are not able to enjoy life, especially over a long period of time
The illness makes her feel depressed.

fed up
(informal) feeling bored and unhappy
She looks really fed up.

Antonyms:
happy
very pleased
cheerful
pleased about life, or making someone feel like this
**shine** verb

*Synonyms: shine, glow, blaze, dazzle, glitter*

**shine**

to be bright with light

*The sun is shining and they say it’ll be hot today.*  
*She polished the table until it shone.*

**glow**

to shine with a weak light

*They saw a cigarette glow in the darkness.*

**blaze**

to burn or shine strongly

*The fire was blazing.*  
*The sun blazed through the clouds.*

**dazzle**

to shine a strong light in someone’s eyes so that they cannot see for a moment

*She was dazzled by the lights of the cars coming towards her.*

**glitter**

to shine brightly with small points of light, as the stars in the sky seem to shine

*The diamond necklace was glittering in the light of the candles.*  
*Her eyes glittered hopefully as she spoke.*
small adjective

Synonyms: small, tiny, minute, miniature, microscopic
Antonyms: big, huge

Synonyms:

small
not large in size or amount

The house is too big for us, so we’re selling it and buying a smaller one.
The guidebook isn’t small enough to carry in your pocket.
She only paid a small amount for that clock.
A small number of problems were reported.

tiny
very small

The black spot is so tiny you can hardly see it.
She lives in a tiny village in the mountains.

minute
extremely small

A minute piece of dust must have got into the watch.

miniature
much smaller than the usual size

He has a miniature camera.

microscopic
extremely small, or so small that you need to use a microscope to see it

It was a microscopic mark and didn’t spoil the appearance of the table.
They study microscopic organisms such as bacteria and viruses.

Antonyms:

big
of a large size

huge
of a very large size
smell noun

Synonyms: smell, odour, aroma, scent, stink

smell
something which you can sense with your nose
I love the smell of coffee. ○ She noticed a smell of gas downstairs.

odour
a smell, especially an unpleasant smell
the odour of rotten eggs

aroma
a pleasant smell of something you can eat or drink
the aroma of freshly baked bread

scent
a pleasant smell of a particular type
the scent of flowers in the garden

stink
(informal) a very unpleasant smell
the stink of cigarette smoke
**stop** verb

**Synonyms:** stop, end, pause, cease

**Antonyms:** begin, continue

**Synonyms:**

- **stop**
  - not to do something any more
    - *At last it stopped raining and we could go out.*
    - *She spoke for two hours without stopping.*

- **end**
  - when something ends, it reaches the point when it stops happening
    - *The film ends with a wedding.*
    - *The concert should end at about 10 o’clock.*

- **pause**
  - to stop or rest for a short time before continuing
    - *She ran along the road, only pausing for a second to look at her watch.*

- **cease**
  - *(formal)* to stop, or to stop doing something
    - *It seemed that the fighting would never cease.*

**Antonyms:**

- **begin**
  - to start doing something

- **continue**
  - to go on doing something or happening
**strong** adjective

*Synonyms: strong, sturdy, powerful, fit, mighty*

*Antonym: weak*

**Synonyms:**

**strong**
- having a lot of force or strength
  
  *The string broke – we need something stronger.*  
  *Strong winds blew some tiles off the roof.*

**sturdy**
- well made and not easily damaged
  
  *The shelter seemed quite sturdy.*  
  *a pair of sturdy walking boots*

**powerful**
- having a lot of force, influence or capability
  
  *This model has a more powerful engine.*  
  *The treasurer is the most powerful person in the organisation.*  
  *The new computers are extremely powerful.*

**fit**
- healthy, strong and having a lot of physical energy
  
  *He isn’t fit enough to go back to work.*  
  *You’ll have to get fit if you’re going to run in that race.*

**mighty**
- (literary) having a lot of force or strength
  
  *With one mighty heave he lifted the sack onto the lorry.*

*Antonym:*

**weak**
- not strong
stupid adjective

**Synonyms:** stupid, silly, foolish, irresponsible, senseless

**Antonyms:** sensible, wise

**Synonyms:**

- **stupid**
  behaving in a way that is not sensible, or resulting from this
  
  *It was stupid of her not to wear a helmet when riding on her scooter.*  
  *He made several stupid mistakes.*

- **silly**
  stupid in an annoying way
  
  *Don’t be silly – you can’t go to the party dressed like that!*  
  *She asked a lot of silly questions.*

- **foolish**
  showing a lack of intelligence or good judgment
  
  *That was a rather foolish thing to do.*  
  *It would be foolish to risk your life.*

- **irresponsible**
  acting or done in a way that shows a lack of good sense
  
  *It was an irresponsible attitude for a parent to have.*  
  *Leaving the children alone was very irresponsible.*

- **senseless**
  done for no good reason
  
  *a senseless attack on an old lady*  
  *It’s senseless to buy clothes you don’t need.*

**Antonyms:**

- **sensible**
  showing good judgment

- **wise**
  able to make good judgments because of experience
**subject** noun

*Synonyms: subject, topic, subject matter, matter, theme*

**subject**
an area of knowledge which you are studying
*Maths is his weakest subject. ○ You can take up to five subjects at the higher level.*

**topic**
the subject of a discussion or conversation
*Can we move on to another topic?*

**subject matter**
the subject dealt with in something such as a book or TV programme
*The subject matter of the book is family relationships.*

**matter**
something you are dealing with, especially a concern or problem
*Now we’ll turn to the important matter of how much it will cost. ○ This is a matter for the police.*

**theme**
the main subject of a book or article
*The theme of the book is how to deal with illness in the family.*
suggest verb

Synonyms: suggest, recommend, advise, propose

suggest
to mention an idea to see what other people think of it
The chairman suggested that the next meeting should be held in October.

recommend
to tell someone that it would be good to do something
I would recommend that you talk to the bank manager.

advise
to suggest to someone what they should do
He advised her to save some of the money.

propose
(formal) to make a suggestion
I propose that we all go for a swim.
talent noun

Synonyms: talent, gift, aptitude, knack

talent
an unusual natural ability, especially for something artistic
She has a talent for getting customers to spend money. ♦ Her many talents include singing and playing the piano.

gift
a natural ability for doing something well
She has a gift for making people feel welcome. ♦ He has a gift for maths.

aptitude
a natural ability that can be developed further
She has an aptitude for learning languages.

knack
(informal) an ability or tendency to do something, often something wrong
She has a knack for talking to strangers. ♦ He has this knack of accidentally offending people.
teach verb

Synonyms: teach, educate, train, coach, instruct, tutor
Antonym: learn

Synonyms:

teach
to show someone how to do something
She taught me how to dance. ○ He teaches maths in the local school.

educate
to teach someone in a school or college, or give them information that they need
She was educated in Switzerland. ○ We need to educate young people about the dangers of alcohol.

train
to teach someone or an animal how to do a particular activity
She’s being trained to be a bus driver. ○ The dogs are trained to smell and find illegal substances.

coach
to give private lessons to someone in a particular sport, subject or activity
He coaches young footballers.

instruct (formal) to show someone how to do something
We were all instructed in the use of the fire safety equipment.

tutor (formal) to teach a small group of students
She earns extra money by tutoring foreign students in English.

Antonym:

learn
to find out about something, or about how to do something
temporary adjective

Synonyms: temporary, fleeting, passing, shortlived
Antonyms: permanent, lasting

Synonyms:

temporary
existing or lasting only for a limited time
*She has a temporary job with a construction company.* ○ *This arrangement is only temporary.*

fleeting
lasting for a very short time only
*She only caught a fleeting glimpse of her attacker.*

passing
causing interest for a short time only
*It’s just a passing fashion.*

shortlived
lasting for a short time only
*Their enthusiasm for the project was very shortlived.*

Antonyms:

permanent
lasting or intended to last for ever

lasting
which lasts for a long time
thin adjective

**Synonyms:** thin, slim, slender, skinny

**Antonyms:** fat, overweight

**Synonyms:**

- thin
  - not fat
  - *The table has very thin legs.* ☺ *He looks too thin – he should eat more.*

- slim
  - with a body that is thin in an attractive way
  - *How do you manage to stay so slim?* ☺ *She looks slimmer in that dress.*

- slender
  - long and thin, or tall and thin
  - *slender fingers* ☺ *a slender flower stem* ☺ *a girl with a slender figure*

- skinny
  - too thin to be attractive
  - *A tall skinny guy walked in.* ☺ *She has very skinny legs.*

**Antonyms:**

- fat
  - having too much flesh or weighing too much

- overweight
  - having a body that weighs too much
think verb

Synonyms: think, assume, reason, conclude, work out, figure out

think
to have an opinion
I think going by train is more relaxing than driving. ○ Do you think it’s going to rain?

assume
to imagine or believe that something is true
Let’s assume that he is innocent. ○ I assume you have enough money to pay for the meal?

reason
to think or to plan something carefully and sensibly
He reasoned that any work is better than no work, so he took the job. ○ If you take the time to reason it out, you’ll find a solution to the problem.

conclude
to come to an opinion from the information available
The police concluded that the thief had got into the building through the broken kitchen window.

work out
to solve a problem by looking at information or calculating figures
I’m trying to work out if we’ve sold more this year than last.

figure out
to try to think of an answer to a problem
We’re trying to figure out if we have enough time to visit both places.
try verb

Synonyms: try, attempt, strive, endeavour

try
to make an effort to do something
I tried to phone her number three times. ○ You have to try hard if you want to succeed.

attempt
to try to do something, especially something difficult
She attempted to lift the box onto the table.

strive
to try very hard to do something, especially over a long period of time
He always strove to do as well as his brother. ○ Everyone is striving for a solution to the dispute.

endeavour
(formal) to try very hard to do something
He endeavoured to contact her by both phone and fax.
type noun

Synonyms: type, kind, sort, category, species, genre

type
a group of people, animals or things that are similar to each other
*This type of bank account pays 10% interest.* ○ *What type of accommodation are you looking for?*

kind
a type of something
*A butterfly is a kind of insect.* ○ *Which kinds of people usually come to these events?*

sort
a type of something
*Do you like this sort of TV show?* ○ *What sort of car have you got?*

category
one of the groups that people, animals or things are divided into in a formal system
*We grouped the books into categories according to subject.*

species
a group of living things such as animals or plants which can breed with each other
*Several species of butterfly are likely to become extinct.*

genre
a type of something artistic such as art, literature or theatre
*the three main literary genres of prose, poetry and drama*
**unattractive** *adjective*

*Synonyms:* unattractive, ugly, unsightly, hideous, plain  
*Antonyms:* attractive, pretty

**Synonyms:**

- **unattractive**  
  not attractive  
  *Her husband is a rather unattractive man.*  
  *The house is unattractive from the outside.*

- **ugly**  
  unpleasant to look at  
  *What an ugly pattern!*  
  *The part of the town round the railway station is even uglier than the rest.*

- **unsightly**  
  a more polite word than ‘ugly’  
  *She has an unsightly scar on her face.*

- **hideous**  
  extremely unpleasant to look at  
  *Where did she get that hideous dress?*

- **plain**  
  a more polite word than ‘unattractive’, used for describing a person  
  *His two daughters are rather plain.*

**Antonyms:**

- **attractive**  
  having features which people like

- **pretty**  
  a pretty woman or girl has a face that is quite attractive
uncertain adjective

Synonyms: uncertain, doubtful, unsure, in doubt, dubious, sceptical
Antonyms: certain, convinced

uncertain
not sure, or not decided
She is uncertain whether to accept the job. ○ He’s uncertain about what to do next. ○ Their plans are still uncertain.

doubtful
not sure that something is right or good, or not likely
I am doubtful about whether we should go. ○ It is doubtful whether the race will take place because of the snow.

unsure
not sure
She was unsure whether to go to work or to stay at home. ○ I’m unsure as to which route is the quickest.

in doubt
not yet known or definite, or not yet sure
The result of the game was in doubt until the last minute. ○ I’m in doubt about whether I should accept their invitation.

dubious
thinking that something might not be true or good
Everyone else seems to believe her story, but personally I’m dubious about it. ○ I’m dubious about getting involved.

sceptical
thinking that something is probably not true or good
You seem sceptical about his new plan. ○ I’m sceptical of the need for these changes.

Antonyms:
certain
sure about something

convinced
very certain
usual adjective

Synonyms: usual, normal, routine, traditional, customary
Antonyms: exceptional, irregular

Synonyms:

usual
done or used on most occasions
She took her usual bus to the office. \(\bigcirc\) Is it usual for him to arrive so late?

normal
usual or expected by most people
We hope to restore normal service as soon as possible. \(\bigcirc\) At her age it’s only normal for her to want to go to parties.

routine
done as part of a regular pattern of activities
He went to the doctor for a routine examination.

traditional
done in a way that has been used for a long time
The dancers were wearing their traditional regional costumes.

customary
(formal) usual
He handled the situation with his customary efficiency. \(\bigcirc\) It’s customary to give taxi drivers a tip.

Antonyms:

exceptional
being an exception

irregular
not happening always at the same time
very adverb

Synonyms: very, extremely, exceptionally, remarkably

very
used to make an adjective or adverb stronger
It’s very hot in the car – why don’t you open a window? ○ The time seemed to go very quickly when we were on holiday.

extremely
to a very great degree
It was extremely hot in August. ○ She reacted extremely angrily.

exceptionally
to a very great degree, often so great as to be surprising
an exceptionally rude man ○ You dealt with the situation exceptionally bravely.

remarkably
to an unusually great degree, or in an unusual way
She remained remarkably calm. ○ She performed remarkably well in both events.
**want** verb

*Synonyms: want, wish, long, desire*

**want**

to hope that you will do something, that something will happen, or that you will get something

*She wants a new car for her birthday.* ○ *Where do you want to go for your holidays?* ○ *He wants to be a teacher.***

**wish**

to want something to happen

*She sometimes wished she could live in the country.* ○ *I wish you wouldn’t be so unkind!*  

**long**

to want something very much

*I’m longing for a cup of tea.* ○ *Everyone was longing to be back home.*

**desire**

(formal) to want something

*Most of us desire a large comfortable home.*
watch verb

Synonyms: watch, look, observe, stare
Antonyms: ignore, overlook

Synonyms:

watch
to look at and notice something
Did you watch the TV news last night? o Everyone was watching the children dancing.

look
to turn your eyes to see something
I want you to look carefully at this photograph. o If you look out of the office window you can see our house. o He opened the lid of the box and looked inside.

observe
to watch something with a lot of attention
Scientists observed the behaviour of the animals for several days.

stare
to look at someone or something for a long time
She stared sadly out of the window at the rain.

Antonyms:

ignore
not to notice someone or something deliberately

overlook
not to notice something
**weak adjective**

*Synonyms:* weak, feeble, frail, unhealthy  
*Antonyms:* strong, healthy  

**Synonyms:**
- weak  
  - not well and strong  
  *After his illness he is still very weak.*
- feeble  
  - physically weak, especially because of illness or age  
  *He gave a feeble wave with his left hand. The voice on the phone sounded feeble.*
- frail  
  - physically weak, especially because of age  
  *His grandmother is now rather frail.*
- unhealthy  
  - not healthy, especially often ill  
  *All their children are quite unhealthy. I thought her face was an unhealthy colour.*

**Antonyms:**
- strong  
  - having good health and strength
- healthy  
  - not ill, or not often ill
**wet** adjective

Synonyms: wet, damp, moist, soaking, waterlogged  
Antonym: dry

**wet**
covered in water or other liquid  
*She forgot her umbrella and got wet walking back from the shops.*  
*The chair’s all wet where he knocked over his beer.*

**damp**
slightly wet  
*She’d just had a shower and her hair was still damp.*  
*The cellar has cold damp walls.*

**moist**
slightly wet, often in a pleasant way  
*To clean the oven, just wipe it with a moist cloth.*  
*The cake should be moist, not too dry.*

**soaking**
very wet  
*Don’t let the dog into the kitchen – he’s soaking or he’s soaking wet.*

**waterlogged**
relating to ground that is full of water, so the surface stays wet for a long time  
*After so much rain, the pitch is waterlogged.*  
*Most plants cannot grow in waterlogged soil.*

**Antonym:**

**dry**
containing little or no water
**work** noun

*Synonyms: work, labour, drudgery, graft*

**work**
- things that you do using your strength or your brain  
  *There’s a great deal of work still to be done on the project.*  
  *There’s too much work for one person.*  
  *If you’ve finished that piece of work, there’s plenty more to be done.*  
  *Cooking for two hundred people every day is hard work.*

**labour**
- work, especially hard physical work  
  *Does the price include the cost of labour?*

**drudgery**
- boring work that you do not enjoy  
  *Most of the work in the office is sheer drudgery.*

**graft**
- *(informal)* very hard work that needs a lot of energy  
  *She has succeeded through sheer hard graft.*
worry noun

Synonyms: worry, anxiety, problem, responsibility, burden

worry
something that makes you anxious
Go on holiday and try to forget your worries.

anxiety
nervous worry about something
Her anxiety about her job prospects began to affect her health. ○ The cost of the treatment is one of my main anxieties.

problem
something that causes difficulty
We’re having problems with the new computer system.

responsibility
something that someone is responsible for
It’s my responsibility to lock the doors at night. ○ Your children are not my responsibility.

burden
something that is hard to deal with
Looking after the dog is sometimes quite a burden.
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*adj = adjective  *adv = adverb  *n = noun  *v = verb
*bold italic = main entry with synonyms  *italic = antonym
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*adj = adjective  adv = adverb  n = noun  v = verb*

*bold italic = main entry with synonyms  italic = antonym*
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*adj* = adjective  *adv* = adverb  *n* = noun  *v* = verb

**bold italic** = main entry with synonyms  **italic** = antonym
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