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SYNONYMS

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BLOOMSBURY

A BLOOMSBURY REFERENCE BOOK

www.bloomsbury.com

First published in Great Britain 2004

© Copyright Bloomsbury Publishing Plc 2004

Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
38 Soho Square
London W1D 3HB

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British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 7475 6979 7
eISBN-13: 978-1-4081-0203-9

Text processing and computer typesetting by Bloomsbury Publishing
Printed and bound in Italy by Legoprint

All papers used by Bloomsbury Publishing are natural, recyclable
products made from wood grown in well-managed forests.

The manufacturing processes conform to the
environmental regulations of the country of origin.

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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. ○ a letter of acknowledgement

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

Demonstrators 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*

Antonym: *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.

Antonym:**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*

contestant

a person who takes part in a competition

The two contestants shook hands before the match.

candidate

a person who applies for a job

We interviewed six candidates for the post of assistant manager.

candidate

a person who has entered for an examination

Candidates are given three hours to complete the exam.

contender

a person who takes part in a competition, especially someone who is likely to win

He's a definite contender for the world title.

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*

Synonyms:**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:**go**

to 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**

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

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

a group of young people who do things together, especially one that causes trouble

Gangs of teenage boys wander the streets.

mob

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**

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. ○ 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? ○ 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. ○ We have had no financial support from the bank.

assistance

help

He asked if he could be of any assistance. ○ She will need assistance with her luggage. ○ 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 ○ 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 wavering 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ 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. ○ He was carrying a valid passport.

legitimate

fair and reasonable, or allowed by the law

They have legitimate concerns about the project. ○ He acted in legitimate defence of his rights.

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 makes 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

nearest 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.

○ *What does he suggest we do in this case?*

recommend

to tell someone that it would be good to do something

I would recommend that you talk to the bank manager. ○ *This restaurant was recommended by a friend.*

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 slim

*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*

Synonyms:**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. ○ 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 ○ 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. ○ 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? ○ Everyone was watching the children dancing.

look

to turn your eyes to see something

I want you to look carefully at this photograph. ○ If you look out of the office window you can see our house. ○ 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*

Synonyms:

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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anger n
annoy v
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 worry
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Headword

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 carry out *v*
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good
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 defeat
 good-looking
 ask
 stop

 small
 shine
 mixture

 mistake
 cold
 leader
 annoy
 new
 courage

 fragile
 intelligent
 annoy
 worry
 break
 cautious
 anger
 contestant
 ability
 leader

 cautious
 careful
 accomplish
 perform
 type

 stop
 uncertain

 follow
 sad

 cut
 job

Headword	Essay	Headword	Essay
<i>clean</i> <i>adj</i>	dirty	damp <i>adj</i>	wet
clever <i>adj</i>	intelligent	dazzle <i>v</i>	shine
clone <i>v</i>	copy	dead <i>adj</i>	
coach <i>v</i>	teach	deadly <i>adj</i>	fatal
coast <i>n</i>	beach	deafening <i>adj</i>	noisy
cold <i>adj</i>		decrease <i>v</i>	increase
collect <i>v</i>		defeat <i>v</i>	
combination <i>n</i>	mixture	defend <i>v</i>	protect
come <i>v</i>	go	deficiency <i>n</i>	lack
come across <i>v</i>	find	deficit <i>n</i>	lack
comic <i>adj</i>	funny	delicate <i>adj</i>	fragile
comical <i>adj</i>	funny	<i>delight</i> <i>v</i>	annoy
companion <i>n</i>	friend	demand <i>v</i>	ask
competence <i>n</i>	ability	depart <i>v</i>	go
competition <i>n</i>		depressed <i>adj</i>	sad
complain <i>v</i>		deputy <i>n</i>	assistant
compound <i>n</i>	mixture	desire <i>v</i>	want
conceited <i>adj</i>	proud	dialect <i>n</i>	language
conclude <i>v</i>	think	differ <i>v</i>	disagree
condemn <i>v</i>	disapprove	difficult <i>adj</i>	hard
conduct <i>v</i>	guide	<i>difficult</i> <i>adj</i>	easy
confer <i>v</i>	give	direct <i>v</i>	guide
conflict <i>n</i>	fight	dirty <i>adj</i>	
conquer <i>v</i>	defeat	<i>dirty</i> <i>adj</i>	clean
conscientious <i>adj</i>	careful	disagree <i>v</i>	
conscious <i>adj</i>	aware	disappear <i>v</i>	go
contender <i>n</i>	contestant	disapprove <i>v</i>	
contest <i>n</i>	competition	discover <i>v</i>	find
contestant <i>n</i>		disgust <i>n</i>	dislike
<i>continue</i> <i>v</i>	stop	dislike <i>n</i>	
contradict <i>v</i>	disagree	<i>dislike</i> <i>v</i>	like
convert <i>v</i>	change	dispute <i>v</i>	disagree
<i>convinced</i> <i>adj</i>	uncertain	donate <i>v</i>	give
cool <i>adj</i>	cold	doubtful <i>adj</i>	uncertain
copy <i>v</i>		drag <i>v</i>	pull
correct <i>adj</i>		draw <i>v</i>	pull
courage <i>n</i>		<i>drop</i> <i>v</i>	increase
<i>cowardice</i> <i>n</i>	courage	<i>drop</i> <i>v</i>	raise
crack <i>v</i>	break	drudgery <i>n</i>	work
criticise <i>v</i>	disapprove	<i>dry</i> <i>adj</i>	wet
crowd <i>n</i>	group	dubious <i>adj</i>	uncertain
custom <i>n</i>	habit	duplicate <i>v</i>	copy
customary <i>adj</i>	usual	duty <i>n</i>	job
cut <i>v</i>		easy <i>adj</i>	
damage <i>v</i>	harm	<i>easy</i> <i>adj</i>	hard

adj = adjective *adv* = adverb
bold italic = main entry with synonyms

n = noun *v* = verb
italic = antonym

Headword

educate *v*
 elderly *adj*
 elevate *v*
 emotional *adj*
 employer *n*
 encounter *v*
 end *v*
 endeavour *v*
 enjoy *v*
 enlarge *v*
 enormous *adj*
 entrant *n*
 error *n*
 essential *adj*
 exact *adj*
 excellent *adj*
 exceptional *adj*
 exceptionally *adv*
 execute *v*
 execute *v*
 expand *v*
 expert *n*
 extend *v*
 extinct *adj*
 extremely *adv*
 fabrication *n*
fail *v*
 falsehood *n*
famous *adj*
fat *adj*
fat *adj*
fatal *adj*
 feast *n*
 fed up *adj*
 feeble *adj*
 fib *n*
fight *n*
 figure out *v*
 filthy *adj*
find *v*
 fit *adj*
 fleeting *adj*
 flimsy *adj*
follow *v*
 fondness *n*
 foolish *adj*
 forget *v*
fragile *adj*
 frail *adj*

Essay

teach
 old
 raise
 moving
 leader
 find
 stop
 try
 like
 increase
 big
 contestant
 mistake
 necessary
 correct
 good
 usual
 very
 kill
 perform
 increase
 beginner
 increase
 dead
 very
 lie

 lie

 thin

 meal
 sad
 weak
 lie

 think
 dirty

 strong
 temporary
 fragile

 love
 stupid
 fail

 weak

Headword

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frequent *adj*
 frequently *adv*
 fresh *adj*
friend *n*
 frozen *adj*
 fulfil *v*
funny *adj*
 fury *n*
 gain *v*
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 gang *n*
 gather *v*
 genre *n*
get *v*
 gift *n*
 gifted *adj*
give *v*
 glitter *v*
 glow *v*
go *v*
good *adj*
good-looking *adj*
 graft *n*
 grant *v*
 grimy *adj*
group *n*
 grubby *adj*
 grumble *v*
 guard *v*
guide *v*
 guts *plural n*
habit *n*
 hamper *v*
 handsome *adj*
happy *adj*
hard *adj*
hard *adj*
harm *v*
 hate *n*
 hate *v*
 hatred *n*
hatred *n*
 haul *v*
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help *n*
 helper *n*
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Essay

cold
 occasional
 often
 new

 cold
 perform

 anger
 get
 competition
 group
 collect
 type

 talent
 intelligent

 shine
 shine

 work
 give
 dirty

 dirty
 complain
 protect

 courage

 block
 good-looking
 sad

 easy

 dislike
 like
 dislike
 love
 pull
 weak

 assistant

Headword	Essay	Headword	Essay
hideous <i>adj</i>	unattractive	knack <i>n</i>	talent
hilarious <i>adj</i>	funny	knowledge <i>n</i>	
hinder <i>v</i>	block	labour <i>n</i>	work
hoard <i>v</i>	collect	lack <i>n</i>	
hoist <i>v</i>	raise	language <i>n</i>	
hold back <i>v</i>	block	<i>lasting</i> <i>adj</i>	temporary
<i>hot</i> <i>adj</i>	cold	<i>late</i> <i>adj</i>	dead
huge <i>adj</i>	big	<i>lawful</i> <i>adj</i>	legal
<i>huge</i> <i>adj</i>	small	<i>lead</i> <i>v</i>	guide
humorous <i>adj</i>	funny	<i>lead</i> <i>v</i>	follow
hurt <i>v</i>	harm	leader <i>n</i>	
hygienic <i>adj</i>	clean	learn <i>v</i>	
icy <i>adj</i>	cold	<i>learn</i> <i>v</i>	teach
<i>ignorance</i> <i>n</i>	knowledge	learner <i>n</i>	beginner
<i>ignorant</i> <i>adj</i>	aware	leave <i>v</i>	go
<i>ignore</i> <i>v</i>	watch	legal <i>adj</i>	
<i>illegal</i> <i>adj</i>	legal	<i>legitimate</i> <i>adj</i>	legal
immediately <i>adv</i>	now	<i>lethal</i> <i>adj</i>	fatal
<i>impure</i> <i>adj</i>	clean	<i>licensed</i> <i>adj</i>	legal
<i>inability</i> <i>n</i>	ability	lie <i>n</i>	
<i>inaudible</i> <i>adj</i>	quiet	<i>lift</i> <i>v</i>	raise
<i>incorrect</i> <i>adj</i>	correct	like <i>v</i>	
increase <i>v</i>		liking <i>n</i>	love
<i>individual</i> <i>n</i>	group	<i>liking</i> <i>n</i>	dislike
<i>in doubt</i> <i>adj</i>	uncertain	<i>live</i> <i>adj</i>	dead
<i>infamous</i> <i>adj</i>	famous	<i>long</i> <i>v</i>	want
infatuation <i>n</i>	love	<i>look</i> <i>v</i>	watch
information <i>n</i>	knowledge	<i>lose</i> <i>v</i>	find
<i>informed</i> <i>adj</i>	aware	<i>loud</i> <i>adj</i>	noisy
<i>injure</i> <i>v</i>	harm	<i>loud</i> <i>adj</i>	quiet
<i>innovative</i> <i>adj</i>	new	love <i>n</i>	
<i>instantly</i> <i>adv</i>	now	<i>love</i> <i>v</i>	like
<i>instruct</i> <i>v</i>	teach	<i>lovely</i> <i>adj</i>	good-looking
intelligent <i>adj</i>		<i>lower</i> <i>v</i>	raise
<i>intermittent</i> <i>adj</i>	occasional	manager <i>n</i>	leader
<i>irregular</i> <i>adj</i>	usual	master <i>v</i>	learn
<i>irresponsible</i> <i>adj</i>	stupid	<i>match</i> <i>n</i>	competition
<i>irritate</i> <i>v</i>	annoy	<i>mate</i> <i>n</i>	friend
<i>irritation</i> <i>n</i>	anger	<i>matter</i> <i>n</i>	subject
<i>jargon</i> <i>n</i>	language	meal <i>n</i>	
<i>jerk</i> <i>v</i>	pull	<i>memorise</i> <i>v</i>	learn
job <i>n</i>		<i>mend</i> <i>v</i>	break
<i>kid</i> <i>n</i>	child	<i>microscopic</i> <i>adj</i>	small
kill <i>v</i>		<i>mighty</i> <i>adj</i>	strong
<i>kind</i> <i>n</i>	type	<i>mindful</i> <i>adj</i>	aware

adj = adjective *adv* = adverb
bold italic = main entry with synonyms

n = noun
italic = antonym

v = verb

Headword	Essay
miniature <i>adj</i>	small
minute <i>adj</i>	small
miserable <i>adj</i>	sad
mistake <i>n</i>	
mixture <i>n</i>	
mob <i>n</i>	group
modest <i>adj</i>	proud
modify <i>v</i>	change
moist <i>adj</i>	wet
mortal <i>adj</i>	fatal
moving <i>adj</i>	
murder <i>v</i>	kill
naked <i>adj</i>	
nearby <i>adj</i>	next
necessary <i>adj</i>	
neglect <i>v</i>	fail
<i>neglect</i> <i>v</i>	protect
neighbouring <i>adj</i>	next
nerve <i>n</i>	courage
new <i>adj</i>	
<i>new</i> <i>adj</i>	old
next <i>adj</i>	
noiseless <i>adj</i>	quiet
noisy <i>adj</i>	
<i>noisy</i> <i>adj</i>	quiet
normal <i>adj</i>	usual
notorious <i>adj</i>	famous
novel <i>adj</i>	new
novice <i>n</i>	beginner
now <i>adv</i>	
nude <i>adj</i>	naked
obese <i>adj</i>	fat
object <i>v</i>	complain
object <i>v</i>	disapprove
observe <i>v</i>	watch
obstruct <i>v</i>	block
obtain <i>v</i>	get
occasional <i>adj</i>	
odd <i>adj</i>	occasional
odour <i>n</i>	smell
often <i>adv</i>	
old <i>adj</i>	
<i>old</i> <i>adj</i>	new
<i>old hand</i> <i>n</i>	beginner
<i>old-fashioned</i> <i>adj</i>	old
<i>old-fashioned</i> <i>adj</i>	new
omit <i>v</i>	fail
original <i>adj</i>	new

Headword	Essay
overcome <i>v</i>	defeat
overlook <i>v</i>	fail
<i>overlook</i> <i>v</i>	watch
overweight <i>adj</i>	fat
<i>overweight</i> <i>adj</i>	thin
painstaking <i>adj</i>	careful
pal <i>n</i>	friend
passing <i>adj</i>	temporary
passion <i>n</i>	love
pathetic <i>adj</i>	moving
pause <i>v</i>	hesitate
pause <i>v</i>	stop
peaceful <i>adj</i>	quiet
perform <i>v</i>	
periodic <i>adj</i>	occasional
<i>permanent</i> <i>adj</i>	temporary
pick up <i>v</i>	learn
pick up <i>v</i>	raise
picnic <i>n</i>	meal
piercing <i>adj</i>	noisy
plain <i>adj</i>	unattractive
<i>please</i> <i>v</i>	annoy
plump <i>adj</i>	fat
<i>poor</i> <i>adj</i>	good
powerful <i>adj</i>	strong
practice <i>n</i>	habit
<i>praise</i> <i>v</i>	complain
present <i>v</i>	give
presently <i>adj</i>	now
pretty <i>adj</i>	good-looking
<i>pretty</i> <i>adj</i>	unattractive
problem <i>n</i>	worry
promptly <i>adv</i>	now
propose <i>v</i>	suggest
protect <i>v</i>	
protest <i>v</i>	complain
proud <i>n</i>	
prudent <i>adj</i>	cautious
pull <i>v</i>	
pull off <i>v</i>	accomplish
pure <i>adj</i>	clean
pursue <i>v</i>	follow
<i>push</i> <i>v</i>	pull
put down <i>v</i>	kill
<i>question</i> <i>n</i>	answer
quiet <i>adj</i>	
<i>quiet</i> <i>adj</i>	noisy
rage <i>n</i>	anger
raise <i>v</i>	

Headword

rarely *adv*
reason *v*
reckless *adj*
recommend *v*
regular *adj*
regularly *adv*
remarkably *adv*
renowned *adj*
repeatedly *adv*
replicate *v*
reply *n*
reproduce *v*
request *v*
required *adj*
resentment *n*
response *n*
responsibility *n*
routine *n*
routine *adj*
rowdy *adj*
sad *adj*
satisfactory *adj*
scent *n*
sceptical *adj*
seaside *n*
secretive *adj*
secure *v*
seldom *adv*
senseless *adj*
sensible *adj*
serious *adj*
set off *v*
shelter *v*
shield *v*
shift *v*
shine *v*
shore *n*
shortage *n*
shortlived *adj*
silent *adj*
silent *adj*
silly *adj*
simple *adj*
simple *adj*
skill *n*

Essay

often
 think
 cautious
 suggest
 occasional
 often
 very
 famous
 often
 copy
 answer
 copy
 ask
 necessary
 anger
 answer
 worry
 habit
 usual
 noisy
 good
 smell
 uncertain
 beach
 cautious
 get
 often
 stupid
 stupid
 funny
 go
 protect
 protect
 change
 beach
 lack
 temporary
 quiet
 noisy
 stupid
 easy
 hard
 ability

Headword

skinny *adj*
slang *n*
slash *v*
slaughter *v*
slender *adj*
slice *v*
slim *adj*
slim *adj*
slip *n*
small *adj*
small *adj*
smash *v*
smell *n*
snack *n*
soaking *adj*
soiled *adj*
solemn *adj*
sort *n*
species *n*
speech *n*
spotless *adj*
squalid *adj*
stalk *v*
stare *v*
steal *v*
steer *v*
stink *n*
stirring *adj*
stop *v*
straightforward *adj*
stranger *n*
strive *v*
strong *adj*
strong *adj*
strong *adj*
stumble *v*
stupid *adj*
stupid *adj*
sturdy *adj*
sturdy *adj*
subject *n*
subject matter *n*
suggest *v*
supervisor *n*
support *n*

Essay

thin
 language
 cut
 kill
 thin
 cut
 thin
 fat
 mistake
 big
 break
 meal
 wet
 dirty
 funny
 type
 type
 language
 clean
 dirty
 follow
 watch
 give
 guide
 smell
 moving
 easy
 friend
 try
 fragile
 weak
 hesitate
 intelligent
 strong
 fragile
 subject
 leader
 help

adj = adjective *adv* = adverb

bold italic = main entry with synonyms

n = noun

italic = antonym

v = verb

Headword

take *v*
 takeaway *n*
talent *n*
 talent *n*
 talented *adj*
 task *n*
teach *v*
 teach *v*
 teenager *n*
temporary *adj*
 terminal *adj*
 theme *n*
 then *adv*
thin *adj*
 thin *adj*
think *v*
 thorough *adj*
 thoughtless *adj*
 thrash *v*
 tiny *adj*
 toddler *n*
 topic *n*
 touching *adj*
 tough *adj*
 tow *v*
 tradition *n*
 traditional *adj*
 train *v*
 transform *v*
 tricky *adj*
 triumph *v*
 true *adj*
 truth *n*
try *v*
 tug *v*
 tutor *v*
type *n*
 ugly *adj*
 ugly *adj*
unattractive *adj*
 unattractive *adj*
 unaware *adj*
uncertain *adj*
 uncommunicative *adj*

Essay

give
 meal

 ability
 intelligent
 job

 learn
 child

 fatal
 subject
 now

 fat

 careful
 cautious
 defeat
 small
 child
 subject
 moving
 hard
 pull
 habit
 usual
 teach
 change
 hard
 defeat
 correct
 lie

 pull
 teach

 unattractive
 good-looking

 good-looking
 aware

 quiet

Headword

uncomplicated *adj*
 undressed *adj*
 unhappy *adj*
 unhealthy *adj*
 unintelligent *adj*
 unknown *adj*
 unnecessary *adj*
 unsightly *adj*
 unsure *adj*
usual *adj*
 vain *adj*
 valid *adj*
 vary *v*
 vast *adj*
very *adv*
 vigilant *adj*
 vital *adj*
 vocabulary *n*
want *v*
 war *n*
 warm *adj*
 wary *adj*
watch *v*
 waterlogged *adj*
 waver *v*
weak *adj*
 weak *adj*
 well-known *adj*
wet *adj*
 whine *v*
 white lie *n*
 wisdom *n*
 wise *adj*
 wish *v*
 witty *adj*
 wonderful *adj*
work *n*
 work out *v*
worry *n*
 wound *v*
 wrong *adj*
 young *adj*
 youngster *n*
 youth *n*

Essay

easy
 naked
 sad
 weak
 intelligent
 famous
 necessary
 unattractive
 uncertain

 proud
 legal
 change
 big

 cautious
 necessary
 language

 fight
 cold
 cautious

 wet
 hesitate

 strong
 famous

 complain
 lie
 knowledge
 stupid
 want
 funny
 good

 think

 harm
 legal
 old
 child
 child