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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. Oh 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*
**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.*

- **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

**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:
bright
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.

docto 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’. o 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 make her seasick.*

love
to like someone or something very much
*The children love their new baby brother.* ○ *We love going on holiday to the seaside.* ○ *I’d love to come with you, but I’ve got too much work to do.*

appreciate
to be pleased about or grateful for something
*Shoppers always appreciate a bargain.* ○ *Customers don’t appreciate having to wait to be served.*

Antonyms:

dislike
not to like something or someone

hate
to dislike someone or something very much
**love** noun

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

**Synonyms:**

*love*

a strong feeling of liking someone or something very much

*I had never felt such love for anyone before.* ○ *In the book he writes about his love for his children.*

*liking*

a feeling of enjoying something

*She has a liking for chocolate.* ○ This drink is too sweet for my liking.

*affection*

a feeling of liking someone, especially a friend

*She always spoke of her neighbour with great affection.*

*fondness*

a gentle feeling of liking someone or something

*She remembered her aunt with fondness.* ○ *my fondness for cakes and chocolate*

*passion*

a very strong feeling of love, especially sexual love

*He couldn't hide the passion he felt for her.*

*infatuation*

a sudden strong feeling of love for someone, especially someone you do not know very well or someone who does not love you

*Eventually his infatuation for his friend's wife passed.*

**Antonym:**

*hatred*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Synonyms: mistake, error, slip, blunder*

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

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

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

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

Synonyms: mixture, blend, combination, compound

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

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

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

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

*Synonyms: moving, emotional, pathetic, stirring, touching*

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

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

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

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

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

Synonyms: naked, bare, nude, undressed

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

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

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

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

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

**Synonyms:**

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

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

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

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

**Antonym:**

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

_Synonyms:_ new, novel, innovative, fresh, brand-new, original

_Antonyms:_ old, old-fashioned

_Synonyms:_

new
made very recently, or never used before
_Put some new paper in the printer._ **(*)_The new version of the software is now available._**

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

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

fresh
new and different
_The police produced some fresh evidence._

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

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

_Antonyms:_

old
having existed for a long time

old-fashioned
no longer in fashion
**next adjective**

*Synonyms: next, nearby, neighbouring, adjacent*

**next**
- 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

_Anonyms:_ 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 adjective

*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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adj = adjective      adv = adverb      n = noun      v = verb

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