

Homonyms and Homophones

What are Homonyms and Homophones?

- In English, words which share the same spelling and pronunciation but have different meanings are known as **homonyms**.
- Similarly, words which share the same pronunciation but have different spellings and meanings are known as **homophones**.
- Both the terms are derived from the Greek root words *homo*, *nym* and *phone*.

Homo (same) + Nym (name)

=

Homonym (same name)

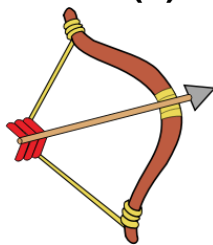
Homo (same) + Phone (sound)

=

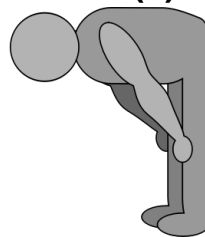
Homophone (same sound)

Examples of Homonyms

Bow (n)



Bow (v)



Cricket (n)



Cricket (n)



Rose (n)



Rose (v; past tense)



Examples of Homonyms in Sentences

- 1. Mala did not **bat** an eyelid.
- 1. The **bat** flew into the room.



- 2. The cat will **lie** on the rug.
- 2. I dislike people who **lie**.



- 3. The landlord was a **mean** person.
- 3. He did not **mean** to hurt his friend.

- 4. **Stalks** of wheat swayed in the fields.
- 4. The hapless woman realised she was being **stalked** by a stranger.

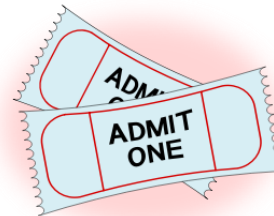
- 5. I **left** my purse in Mrs Mishra's house.
- 5. The spectators seated towards the **left** were very boisterous.

Examples of Homophones

Aloud



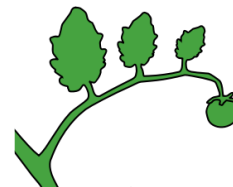
Allowed



Wine



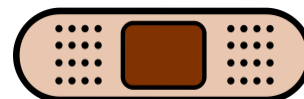
Vine



Heel



Heal



Which

WHICH?

Sale



Peace



Banned



Ate



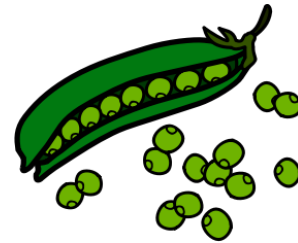
Witch



Sail



Peas



Band



Eight



Examples of Homophones in Sentences

1. **Accept** this flower as a token of my gratitude.
1. **Except** for a few mistakes, Rahul's work is flawless.

2. The old lady **breaks** the twig into half.
2. The car swivelled around when its **brakes** failed.

3. The cat tiptoed on its **paws**.
3. The lawyer spoke after a long **pause**.

4. There are no **sellers** available at this moment.
4. Many of these old colonial style houses are equipped with **cellars**.

5. The lone sheep strayed away from its **herd**.
5. I **heard** what you said.

6. The master strategist used his **wiles** against the evil assassin.
6. It took us a **while** to realise that we were heading in the wrong direction.



Commonly Confused Homophones

1. The Sharmas are proud of there daughter.	✗
1. The Sharmas are proud of their daughter.	✓
2. The subject peaked my interest.	✗
2. The subject piqued my interest.	✓
3. The employer wanted to know weather he could join immediately.	✗
3. The employer wanted to know whether he could join immediately	✓
4. The members gathered for the bored meeting.	✗
4. The members gathered for the board meeting.	✓

Idioms, Phrases and Proverbs

What are Idioms and Phrases?

In English, idioms, phrases and proverbs are used to enhance written and spoken communication.

- An idiom is a phrase whose figurative meaning is different from its literal meaning.
- A phrase can be a combination of a verb and an adverb, a verb and a preposition, and a verb with an adverb and a preposition.



- Both idioms and phrases can have literal and figurative meanings.
- The only way to learn idioms and phrases is by reading about them and using them as much as you can.

Let us look at some phrases and idioms.



Phrases - Usage

Act on (produce effect) – The strong chemical acted on the marble surface.

Add to (increase) – The famine added to the misery of the farmers.

Bear with (tolerate) – She bore with the shortcomings of her children.

Blow over (to pass) – The wind blew over the fields.

Bring on (cause to bring) – Laziness brings on misfortune.

Cast off (abandon) – The son cast off his old parents.

Fall out (quarrel) – The partners fell out over disagreements on profit shares.

Get through (pass) – They got through the entrance examination.

Hold up (stop) – The traffic was held up for an hour after the accident.

Lay up with (confine to bed) – He is laid up in bed with fever.

Look over (examine carefully) – The supervisor looked over the checklists.

Knocked about (wander about) – Kevin knocked about the town on Sundays.

Part with (give up) – We parted with our land in hope of some fortune.

Strike at (aim at) – The clause strikes at concealing confidential information.



Phrases - Usage

Think over (consider) – Janet must think over her resignation before the meeting.

Treat to – Harold treated me to an ice cream on his birthday.

Suffer from – Mathew suffered from malnutrition while on war.

Work up (excite) – Gautam worked himself up into a fury during the debate.

At best – They were at best the most suitable candidates for the position.

Yield to (surrender) – Women yield to male dominance in some countries.

Turn aside (deviate) – She always turns aside from the main discussion during seminars.

Anything but (certainly not) – Shantaram was anything but a spy.

At one's best – Sharon was at her best today at the recitation competition.

By far – This is by far the scariest movie I have seen alone.

For the most part – The discussion was for the most part useful.

In the guise of – Saloni went to the party in the guise of a man.

At loggerheads (hostile) – Sameer and Arya are at logger heads with each other.

On pretence of - The shopkeeper troubled Shyam on pretence of giving him work.

Idioms - Usage

College was very interesting, but **the acid test** will come when I get a job.
(The true test of the value or the quality of something)

It is mandatory. It is written **in black and white** in the contract.
(With a written proof)

Natasha pretended to be sad, but her mother knew her tears were **crocodile tears**.
(Pretend to be sad about something)

The employees were kept **in the dark** about the company's falling profits.
(Not be informed about something that others know)

Of course, I am interested in the competition. I am **all ears!**
(Listening very attentively)

Jayant's salary is so low that it is difficult for him to **make both ends meet**.
(Live within one's income)

You **have the face** to come here after doing this to me?
(Be bold)

Driving alone on this road is **playing with fire**.
(Take risk)

Reactions to the campaign are arriving in **fits and starts**.
(Not continuous)

She is rude to her parents, but they just **grin and bear it**.
(Accept something bad without complaining)



Idioms - Usage

I am writing about the issue, but I know it is **flogging a dead horse**.
(Wasting time in something that will not succeed)

She came **in a huff** and ordered something to eat.
(In an angry manner)

Saraswati cannot **take a joke** although she is famous for being cheerful in her group.
(Accept being made fun of in good humour)

Now that the project has failed, be ready to **face the music**.
(Accept unpleasant results of an action)

Aunt Kelly's dresses are so **out of date**.
(Old-fashioned)

I'd like to **have a shot at** photography.
(Try something for the first time)

We have been given only a day to rework on this. That's a **tough job**.
(Be very difficult)

You mustn't tease him and **rub him the wrong way**.
(To irritate someone)



Those chairs we bought from Kenya are now **white elephants**.
(Something very expensive but a nuisance to keep)

Kevin won't believe that I am unwell until he sees me. He is such a **doubting Thomas**.
(Someone who is always suspicious)

What are Proverbs?

A proverb is a simple statement based on facts and experiences which expresses truth and gives advice on life. You may have heard several proverbs in your moral science class. Let us read some proverbs and understand their meanings.

Fortune favours the brave.

Luck is more likely to be with those who take risks.

Don't count your chickens before they are hatched.

You shouldn't plan how to utilise good results of something before those results have occurred.

Honesty is the best policy.

Even if it may be useful to tell a lie, you should always tell the truth.

Slow and steady wins the race.

Constant and regular work leads to better results.

Empty vessels make the most noise.

People who have little knowledge usually talk the most and make the greatest fuss.

There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Things which are offered free always have a hidden cost.

God helps those who help themselves.

Work hard to achieve your goals. Don't just wait for good things to happen to you.

Practice makes perfect.

You have to practice a skill a lot to become good at it.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Different people have different ideas about what's beautiful.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

When you are really in need, you think of creative solutions to your problems.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

If one member of a team doesn't perform well, the whole team will fail.

Why Use Idioms, Phrases and Proverbs?

Figurative language

- uses fewer words to express more
- is used to share old wisdom and universal ideas
- helps break the monotony of normal writing
- makes writing more visual and enjoyable for readers
- makes the text colourful
- paints a mental picture of the writer's ideas for readers



Prefix and Suffix

English Affixes

- In any language, the system responsible for building vocabulary by affixing groups of words to **root words** or **base words** is known as the affixation system.

<u>Un</u>believ<u>able</u>	<u>Non-</u>exist<u>ent</u>
<u>Dig</u>ress<u>ion</u>	<u>A</u>social
Favour <u>able</u>	Youth <u>ful</u>

- This system is made of **prefixes, suffixes, root words** and **base words**.
- The knowledge of English affixation offers us a systematic and effective way of expanding our vocabulary without having to remember a large number of words at a time.
- Though many words in English do not have affixes (chair, bag, horse, time), there are many others which do (**re**turn, **de**monstration, **un**do).
- English borrows heavily from languages such as **Latin** and **Greek**.
- Most of the word roots in English can be traced back to these two languages.
- Through this chapter, we will learn the common prefixes, suffixes and root words which constitute English.

Prefixes

- A prefix is a group of letters which is fixed at the beginning of the root or base word.
- The term 'prefix' is derived from the Greek root words 'pre' which means 'before' and 'fix' which literally means 'to fix'.

Un certain	Ir replaceable	Bi focal
Anti social	Mis understand	Re treat
Sub tract	Ambi valent	Pro ceed

Functions of Prefixes

- Prefixes can indicate the presence or absence of an idea.

A moral (without morals)	Non -existent (not existing)
Un important (trifling)	In corporated (taken in)

- Prefixes can indicate position.

De throned (off the throne)	Sub marine (under water)
Super impose (kept on top)	Para military (alongside military)

- Prefixes can also indicate characteristics or qualities.

Anti bacterial (resistant to bacteria)	Bi annual (twice every year)
Con genital (with birth)	Trans parent (can see across)

List of Common English Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Words	Prefix	Meaning	Words
a-, an-	Not, without	Amoral Amorphous Anarchy	anti-, ant-	Against	Antibacterial Antipathy Antagonist
ante-	Before	Antechamber Ante mortem Ante bellum	auto-	Self	Automatic Autocrat Autonomy
bi-	Two	Biannual Bicycle Binoculars	bio-	Life	Biology Biotic Biogenetics
co-, com-, con-	Together, Joint	Cooperate Company Conjoined	contra-	Against	Contradict Contravene Contravene Contrast
demi-	Half	Demigod	de-	Down	Decrease Decline Degrade
dis-	Off	Dispose Disappear Disturb	e-, ex-	Out	Eject Express Extract
en-	To do, to put	Endanger Enchanted Enable	extra-	Beyond	Extra-terrestrial Extracurricular

Prefix	Meaning	Words	Prefix	Meaning	Words
hemi-	Half	Hemisphere Hemicycle	hepta-	Seven	Heptagon Heptarchy
hyper-	Over	Hyperbole Hyperactive Hyperlink	in-, ill-, ir-, im-	Not	Incapable Illogical Irrelevant Impossible
in-, im-	Inside/into	Internal Indoctrinate Impregnate	inter-	Between	Interschool International Interconnected
mono-	Single/one	Monogram Monarch Monopoly	mega-	Huge	Megawatts Megabyte Megacity
micro-	Small	Microscope Microbiology Microorganism	non-	Not, without	Nonstop Nonsense Non-vegetarian
omni-	All	Omnipotent Omniscient Omnipresent	ob-	Bad, wrong	Obstruct Obnoxious Obdurate
para-	Along	Paramilitary Parallel Parapet	pre-	Before	Prevent Prepare Predict
post-	After	Postcolonial Post mortem Post-partum	poly-	Many	Polygon Polyglot Polymath
re-	Again	Replay Regain Return	retro-	Back	Retrogress Retrograde
sub-	Under	Subway Subtract submarine	super-	Over, above	Supersede Superman Superfluous
syn-, sym-	Together	Synthesis Synchronise Sympathy	semi-	Half	Semicircle Semisolid Semisweet

Prefix	Meaning	Words	Prefix	Meaning	Words
tri-	Three	Tricycle Triangle Trinity	tetra-	Four	Tetra pack Tetrapod Tetrad
trans-	Across	Transparent Translucent Transport	uni-	One	Unity Unicycle Universe
un-	Not	Unfinished Unspoken Uninterrupted	zoo-	Animal	Zoophilic Zoology Zoo

Suffixes

- A suffix is a group of words which is fixed at the end of the root or base word.
- The term suffix is derived from the Greek root words 'sub' which means 'under' and 'fix' which literally means 'to fix'.

Gener <u>ous</u>	Happi <u>ness</u>
Decen <u>cy</u>	Grate <u>ful</u>

Functions of Suffixes

- Suffixes can change the part of speech of a particular word.

Adequ <u>ate</u> (adjective)	Adequ <u>acy</u> (noun)	Adequately <u>ly</u> (adverb)
Toler <u>able</u> (adjective)	Tolerati <u>on</u> (noun)	Toler <u>ate</u> (verb)
Suprem <u>e</u> (adjective)	Suprem <u>acy</u> (noun)	Supremely <u>ly</u> (adverb)
Demonstr <u>able</u> (adjective)	Demonstrati <u>on</u> (noun)	Demonstr <u>ate</u> (verb)

- Suffixes can indicate the number of the noun whether it is singular or plural.

Fox (singular)	Fox <u>es</u> (plural)
Ox (singular)	Ox <u>en</u> (plural)

- Suffixes can indicate the tense of verbs.

Toast (present)	Toasted (past)
Freeze (present)	Freezing (continuous)

List of Common English Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Words	Suffix	Meaning	Words
-able (adj)	Having the quality	Unspeakable Admirable Amicable	-acy (n)	Quality	Delicacy Privacy Accuracy
-est (adj)	Highest degree	Biggest Greatest Fastest	-ance, -ence (n)	State or quality	Maintenance Absence Difference
-dom (n)	Place or state	Freedom Kingdom Boredom	-ful (adj)	Full of	Graceful Tactful Beautiful
-er, -or, -eer, -ier (n)	Doer, one who	Trainer Actor Charioteer Chocolatier	-ism (n)	Belief system	Capitalism Hinduism Marxism
-ist (n)	One who	Pianist Terrorist Chemist	-ity, -ty (n)	Quality of	Duplicity Ability Enmity
-ish (adj)	Like	Ticklish Boyish Reddish	-less (adj)	Without	Fearless Blameless Toothless
-ly (adv)	In the manner of	Beautifully Sadly Slowly	-hood (n)	State	Childhood Neighbourhood Sainthood
-ate (v)	To do/make	Create Elevate Punctuate	-en (v)	To make/become	Enliven Frozen Sunken
-kin (n)	A person	Bumpkin	-ed (v)	To do/make	Toiled Cooked Walked
-ee (n)	A person who	Employee Divorcee Examinee	-fy, -ify (v)	To do/make	Verify Clarify Horrrify

-ward	In the direction of	Eastwards Towards Downwards	-ean, -ian (adj)	To have the quality	Vegetarian Herculean Cyclopean
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Root Words and Base Words

- Root words and base words are the parts which contain the primary meaning of the word.
- Prefixes and suffixes are added to the root and base words to create new words and ideas.

Root Word

- A root word cannot stand on its own as an independent word.
- It needs the addition of the prefix or the suffix for the completion of its meaning.
- For example, let us take the words Geologist and Carnivorous.

Geo -	-log-	-ist	Carni-	-vor -	-ous-
(root)	(root)	(suffix)	(root)	(root)	(suffix)

- In the above cases, the roots **geo-**, **-log-**, **-carni-** and **-vor-** cannot stand alone as individual words.
- They are therefore known as root words.

Base Word

- A base word, unlike a root word, can stand on its own like an independent word.
- It does not need the addition of the prefix or the suffix to function as a stand-alone word.
- For example, let us take the words Undo, Precook, Counterattack and Superscript.

Pre	cook	Counter	attack	Super	script
(prefix)	(base word)	(prefix)	(base word)	(prefix)	(base word)

- In the above cases, **do**, **cook**, **attack** and **script** can all function as meaningful words.
- They are therefore known as base words.

List of Common Root Words and Base Words

Root	Meaning	Words	Root	Meaning	Words
-acr-, -ac-	Sharp, bitter	Acrid Acronym Acute	-ami-, -amo-	Love	Amiable Amicable Amorous
-ambi-, -amphi-	Both	Ambivalent Amphibious	-aster-	Star	Asteroid Disaster Astrology
-bene -	Good	Benevolent Benefit Benign	-chrono-	Time	Chronology Chronicle Synchronise
-circ-	Around	Circumnavigate Circumstances Circumference	-dict-	Speak	Dictate Dictator Diction
-duc-	Lead	Duct Abduct Induct	-gen-	Create/birth	Hydrogen Generate Gene
-geo-	Earth	Geography Geologist	-graph-	Write	Calligraphy Graphology
-jur-, -jus-, - jud-	law	Jury Justice Judge	-log-, -logy- - ist	Study	Biology Zoology Psychologist
-luc-	Light	Translucent Lucid	-man-	Hand	Manacles Manuscript Manual
-mis-	Hatred, wrong	Misanthrope Misinform Mistake	-mit-, -mis-	Allow	Permit Admit Transmission
-path-	Feel	Sympathy Empathy Antipathy	-phil-	Love	Philosopher Philology Bibliophile
-photo-	Light	Photosynthesis Photograph Photon	-scribe-	Write	Scribe Scribble Inscribe

-sent-, -sense-	Feel	Sentimental Sensational Sensible	-tele-	Long distance	Telephone Telescope Television
-terr-	Land, ground	Territory Terrestrial Terrace	-vac-	Empty	Vacation Vacant Evacuate
-vid-, -vis-	See	Video Visual Visible	-vol-	Fly	volley

How to Use the Affixation System

- Thorough knowledge of the English affixation system helps us in guessing the meaning of the word purely by the means of its prefix-root-suffix structure.
- Because of the limitations of our memory, it is not easy to remember a large number of words at a time.
- We may find it difficult to associate the meaning of the word with its structure.

Word	Meaning
Subterranean	Underground

- With the knowledge of the affixation system, we can guess the meaning of the given word.

Prefix	Root	Suffix
Sub-	-terran-	-ean
(under)	(ground)	(adj)

The meaning of the above word is ‘Underground’, and it is used as an adjective.

Thus, to have a rich vocabulary, students should learn **the prefix-root-suffix** method. It is an interesting way to expand your vocabulary with little effort. Students who are well-versed with the affixation system find it easier to tackle difficult words and are more confident about their word usage. It will definitely give you an edge over the others when it comes to words.

Synonyms and Antonyms

What are Synonyms?

Synonyms are words or phrases which are used as substitutes for another. Sometimes, synonyms need not mean exactly the same as the other word. They can also be a close substitute for the other word.

Synonyms can belong to any word category:

Category	Word	Synonym	Synonym
Noun	Pauper	Destitute	Beggar
Adjective	Bright	Dazzling	Luminous
Verb	Laugh	Chuckle	Snigger
Adverb	Beautifully	Exquisitely	Charmingly

Why do Synonyms Exist?

English is a language which has many influences since it has evolved in a natural manner. Today, it is a combination of languages such as Latin, Greek, Celtic, French, Scandinavian and even Hindi. Some words in English are adopted from these languages in addition to the ones which already exist. For example, **mansion** is a word which is adopted from French. At the same time, its synonym **bungalow** is taken from Hindi.

What are the Uses of Synonyms?

Why are synonyms used when one word can convey the idea perfectly? Let us find out.

Situation

Let us consider the words **check** and **investigate**. Though both the words are synonyms of each other, we cannot substitute one for the other in certain situations.

Examples:

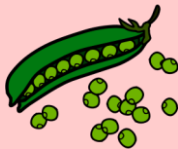
A I will check if there is something to eat in the kitchen.	B I will investigate if there is something to eat in the kitchen.
C Inspector Sahasrabuddhe will check the robbery attempt.	D Inspector Sahasrabuddhe will investigate the robbery attempt.

In the above examples, the usage of the word **check** in sentence A seems appropriate. Its synonym **investigate** sounds awkward and pompous in sentence B. Similarly, in sentence C the word **check** lacks the force of the word **investigate** which is used in sentence D. In conclusion, we can say that it is the situation that dictates which word or its synonym has to be used.

Tone

Sometimes a word does not do justice to the emotion behind it. The tone or the emotion behind a person’s voice can also dictate which word has to be used.

Examples: **Dislike, hate, despise**

A. Manohar dislikes peas. (Does not like peas)	
B. Manohar hates peas. (Intensely dislikes peas)	
C. Manohar despises peas. (Has a very strong and personal hatred towards peas)	

Although the three highlighted words are synonyms, they have different tonalities. Hence, one cannot use the word **dislike** to describe a very strong and personal hatred.

Sound

We use a certain word instead of its synonym because it sounds more pleasing.

Examples:

A. A confederacy of dunces
B. A group of idiots

In the above examples, **group** and **idiots** are synonyms of **confederacy** and **dunces**, respectively. Sentence A sounds more appealing than sentence B because of the choice of words. Hence, it is important that we use synonyms sometimes to make sentences sound more pleasing.

We can conclude by saying that synonyms make the language rich in meaning by adding variety to it. It also helps the speakers express themselves better and more clearly. The speakers can assess the situation and use appropriate words to deliver the exact message they wish to express.



What are Antonyms?

In contrast with synonyms, **antonyms** are words or phrases which are opposite in meaning to another. This may sound strange, but often, to understand a word better, we have to look at its antonym. We learn the meaning of the word by understanding how it contrasts with its antonym.

Example:
 Cantankerous: kan'taŋk(ə)rəs
 Opposite of good-natured

Sometimes, to understand a word better, it is important that we look up its antonym along with its synonym. Like synonyms, there can be more than one antonym for a given word.

Category	Word	Antonym	Antonym
Noun	Odour	Fragrance	Aroma
Adjective	Jubilant	Morose	Depressed
Verb	Create	Destroy	Annihilate
Adverb	Excitedly	Nervously	Anxiously

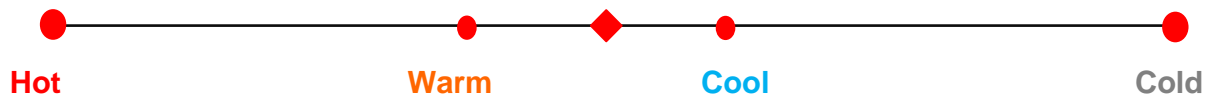
What are the Different Types of Antonyms?

There are three basic types of antonyms:

- Gradable antonyms
- Complementary antonyms
- Relational antonyms

Gradable Antonyms

Gradable antonyms are words which are the extreme opposites of each other. Imagine a spectrum or a scale. Gradable antonyms will be at equal distances from the centre on the scale. However, these words may have a spectrum of words between them. All these words may exist together on the same scale.



In the above example, **hot** is the polar opposite of the word **cold**. But together, they exist on the same spectrum as **warm** and **cool**. Let us look at more examples of gradable antonyms.

Good	Bad	Depressed	Joyful	Intelligent	Foolish
Evil	Saintly	Young	Old	Excited	Bored

Complementary Antonyms

Unlike gradable antonyms which have a spectrum of words between them, complementary antonyms are words which express two extreme ideas without the possibility of 'middle' words. They do not lie on a continuous scale and are the exact opposites of each other.

Let us look at a few examples of complementary antonyms.

Inhale	Exhale	Dead	Alive	Exit	Enter	Right	Wrong
Vacant	Occupied	Similar	Different	Sink	Float	Married	Single

Relational Antonyms

Relational antonyms are words which are opposite to each other by the virtue of their relationship alone. One finds meaning through the existence of the other. For example, the word **up** exists in relation to the word **down**.

Let us look at a few examples of relational antonyms.

Teacher	Student	Husband	Wife	Slave	Master	Parent	Child
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Predator	Prey	North	South

Synonyms and Antonyms

We shall now look at common synonyms and antonyms used in everyday life.

able (adj)

Synonyms

good skilled adequate

Antonyms

disinclined unskilled inadequate

abnormal (adj)

Synonyms

unusual anomalous weird

Antonyms

usual normal common

accomplish

(v)

Synonyms

do finish attain

Antonyms

begin halt destroy

abandon (v)

Synonyms

leave neglect drop

Antonyms

take up pursue adopt

amusement

(n)

Synonym

delight enjoyment glee

Antonym

boredom gloom sadness

baffle (v)

Synonym

amaze mystify confuse

Antonym

clarify clear up explain

baleful (adj)

Synonyms

deadly dangerous evil

Antonyms

harmless safe

banal (adj)

Synonyms

boring common bland

Antonyms

interesting origin new

banish (v)

Synonyms

dismiss dispel remove

Antonym

accept admit allow

coarse (adj)

Synonyms

rough bumpy rugged

Antonyms

smooth refined fine

candid (adj)

Synonyms

frank honest sincere

Antonyms

biased devious false

chaos (n)

Synonyms

turmoil disarray disorder

Antonyms

harmony organisation orderliness

celestial (adj)

Synonyms

heavenly angelic holy

Antonyms

awful bad horrible

cease (v)

Synonyms

stop halt discontinue

Antonyms

begin continue do

deadly (adj)

Synonyms

dangerous cruel destructive

Antonym

safe kind strong

dumb (adj)

Synonyms

mute quite mum

Antonyms

sharp talkative speaking

depart (v)

Synonyms

leave escape exit

Antonyms

arrive come enter

decay (n)

Synonyms

decompose rot break down

Antonyms

grow build mature

detailed (adj)

Synonyms

accurate complex exact

Antonyms

inaccurate simple false

demise (n)

Synonyms

death end downfall

Antonyms

birth start rise

endure (v)

Synonyms

bear brave face

Antonyms

halt refuse deny

eccentric (adj)

Synonyms

strange outlandish odd

Antonyms

common familiar ordinary

edible (adj)

Synonyms

eatable consumable savoury

Antonyms

inedible unpalatable harmful

fabricate (v)

Synonyms

create concoct make

Antonyms

demolish ruin destroy

fact (n)

Synonyms

evidence information matter

Antonyms

lie fabrication

fallible (adj)

Synonyms

faulty incorrect imperfect

Antonyms

perfect correct perfect

flabbergasted

(adj)

Synonyms

surprised taken aback dumbfounded

Antonyms

bored clarified explain

faction (n)

Synonyms

part bloc sect

Antonyms

whole entirety unity

general (adj)

Synonyms

broad generic commonplace

Antonyms

specific different extraordinary

garb (n)

Synonyms

clothes disguise garments

Antonyms

reality

garnish (v)

Synonyms

decorate adorn enhance

Antonyms

ruin disfigure worsen

gloat (v)

Synonyms

brag exult relish

Antonyms

be sad be glum be upset

gaudy (adj)

Synonyms

bright flashy garish

Antonyms

dull refined modest

genial

(adj)

Synonyms

friendly amiable cheerful

Antonyms

hostile rude nasty

hasty (adj)

Synonyms

impatient hurried reckless

Antonyms

patient cautious slow

habitual (adj)

Synonyms

chronic addicted

Antonyms

temporary inhabitual infrequent

hale (adj)

Synonyms

healthy fit robust

Antonyms

unhealthy unfit sick

industrious

(adj)

Synonyms

hardworking diligent productive

Antonyms

lazy inactive negligent

invite(v)

Synonyms

call attract persuade

Antonyms

discourage ignore reject

ignite (v)

Synonyms

set ablaze burn kindle

Antonyms

put out extinguish quench

jest (n)

Synonyms

joke fun gag

Antonyms

seriousness work gravity

jibe (n)

Synonyms

insult remark abuse

Antonyms

appreciation flattery honour

joyial (adj)

Synonyms

happy joyful blissful

Antonyms

morose sad depressed

kindle (v)

Synonyms

stoke light ignite

Antonyms

put out extinguish snuff

king (n)

Synonyms

emperor Ruler Monarch

Antonyms

subject

knack (n)

Synonyms

expertise flair skill

Antonyms

inability ineptitude incapacity

lavish (adj)

Synonyms

generous luxuriant grand

Antonyms

modest austere economical

liberal (adj)

Synonyms

free broadminded flexible

Antonyms

orthodox narrow minded rigid

linger (v)

Synonyms

stay remain persist

Antonyms

vanish go leave

misogamist (n)

Synonyms

marriage hater sceptic pessimist

Antonyms

believer of marriage confident optimist

monotony (n)

Synonyms

boredom dullness routine

Antonyms

excitement change variety

meagre (adj)

Synonyms

less few insufficient

Antonyms

much many sufficient

neglect (n)

Synonyms

leave abandon carelessness

Antonyms

take up adopt care

negotiate (v)

Synonyms

agree discuss consult

Antonyms

disagree block ignore

naïve (adj)

Synonyms

innocent simple ignorant

Antonyms

artful cunning smart

object (v)

Synonyms

disagree contradict clash

Antonyms

agree accept approve

omnipotent (adj)

Synonyms

all powerful almighty supreme

Antonyms

weak impotent feeble

onset (n)

Synonyms

starting beginning birth

Antonyms

end finish line death

philanthropist (n)

Synonyms

generous social servant humanitarian

Antonyms

villain malefactor antisocial person

pessimist (n)

Synonyms

cynic worrier complainer

Antonyms

optimist positive person hoper

precise (adj)

Synonyms

exact same accurate

Antonyms

imprecise uncertain inaccurate

quest (n)

Synonyms

expedition search adventure

Antonyms

retreat retirement withdrawal

reveal (v)

Synonyms

show expose divulge

Antonyms

hide withhold conceal

recount (v)

Synonyms

convey narrate describe

Antonyms

repress hide conceal

rural (adj)

Synonyms

simple village-like rustic

Antonyms

urban modern civic

scrupulous (adj)

Synonyms

moral upright precise

Antonyms

unscrupulous dishonest careless

scurry (v)

Synonyms

run scamper hurry

Antonyms

dawdle stay walk

simpleton (n)

Synonyms

simple-minded person foolish gullible

Antonyms

smart sophisticated cunning

tender (adj)

Synonyms

soft delicate raw

Antonyms

hardened rough calloused

trot (v)

Synonyms

walk briskly jog hurry

Antonyms

dawdle stop walk slowly

timid (adj)

Synonyms

frightened meek fearful

Antonyms

brave brazen audacious

unanimous (adj)

Synonyms

together united collective

Antonyms

single-handed alone divided

unruly (adj)

Synonyms

uncontrollable unmanageable lawless

Antonyms

disciplined controllable calm

unique (adj)

Synonyms

one of a kind special peculiar

Antonyms

common banal similar

vain (adj)

Synonyms

self-absorbed self- arrogant

vacate (v)

Synonyms

retreat empty depart

Antonyms
 obsessed
 humble modest shy

Antonyms
 arrive occupy come

vibrant (adj)
Synonyms
 colourful exciting lively
Antonyms
 dull boring monotonous

wander (v)
Synonyms
 roam walk around stray
Antonyms
 go directly

withhold (v)
Synonyms
 keep back conceal not give
Antonyms
 give show exhibit

wrangle (v)
Synonyms
 fight quarrel brawl
Antonym
 agree concede get along

The Same Word Used as Different Parts of Speech

Content and Function Words

In English, a word can be either a content word or a function word.

Content Words Show Information and Meaning

Nouns	house, Pavan, summer, student
Main Verbs	swim, race, eat, frighten
Adjectives	beautiful, thin, expensive, naughty
Adverbs	fast, carefully, late, often

Function Words Make our Sentences Grammatically Correct

Auxiliary Verbs	do, be, have
Articles	a, an, the
Conjunctions	and, but, for, though
Prepositions	in, on, over, beside
Pronouns	you, him, her, they

The combination of these words helps us to form different sentence structures.

They have a beautiful house.

Do you know you are thin because you eat fast?

What a naughty student Pavan is!

They often swim in the lake during summer.

Parts of Speech

Form and content words are further classified into different classes called parts of speech. There are eight parts of speech in English:

1. Noun
2. Adjective
3. Pronoun
4. Verb
5. Adverb
6. Preposition
7. Conjunction
8. Interjection

The same word can belong to different parts of speech according to how it is used in sentences. Let us see how.

Above

The stars are above. (Adverb)

The founders' authority is above the management's. (Preposition)

Rewrite the above examples. (Adjective)

Our luck comes from above. (Noun)

The function of a word in a given sentence determines which part of speech it belongs to.

Identifying the Function of a Word

A word used as a **noun** in a sentence will answer the question 'what?' and will usually be the subject of the sentence.

If the word is used as an **adjective**, it will answer the question 'what kind of/how much?' and will describe the noun/s in the sentence.

When used as an **adverb**, a word will answer the question 'how?' and will tell you more about the verb in a sentence.

Let us look at a few examples:

Round

Adjective

I have a round dining table. (**what kind of table?**)

Noun

Cut the candles into rounds. (**into what?**)

Adverb

An eagle circled round overhead. (**how did it circle?**)

A word used as a **verb** will show an action performed by the noun.

A word which is used as a **preposition** will show location, time and movement.

A word used as a **conjunction** will connect phrases and sentences.

Let us look at a few examples:

Except

Verb

If we except Sumed, all are to be blamed.

Preposition

All the soldiers returned except Hemant.

Conjunction

I didn't say anything except that you are unwell.

Adverb or Preposition?

Some words can be used as both prepositions and adverbs.

Before

Preposition
Adverb

She had to rest before her flight.
We have met each other before.

After

Preposition
Adverb

Shortly after Partition, they moved to Pakistan.
The Duke died soon after.

Near

Preposition
Adverb

His house is near the bank.
A building crashed somewhere near.

Like

Preposition
Adverb

Do not shout like that.
And then he said I was right! I was like so shocked!

Noun or Verb?

Some words can be used both as nouns and verbs.

Race

Noun Wasim won the race by a margin of 2 seconds.
Verb The children were asked to race towards the finishing line.

Love

Noun Mother's love is selfless.
Verb I love eating fresh fruits.

Box

Noun Do not touch the orange box.
Verb I will box your ears if you don't listen to me.

Grace

Noun Ishani performed her dance with grace.
Verb Please grace the occasion with your presence.

The following are some commonly used words which can be used as different parts of speech.

All

Adjective	<u>All</u> children are requested to maintain silence.
Adverb	She was <u>all</u> alone in that dingy lane.
Pronoun	<u>All</u> spoke in his favour.
Noun	<u>All</u> was lost in the war.

Better

Adjective	We are hoping for <u>better</u> facilities here.
Adverb	I am sure you know <u>better</u> .
Noun	The sooner the <u>better</u> .
Verb	His account can hardly be <u>bettered</u> .

Down

Adverb	Sit <u>down</u> and stop shouting.
Preposition	The drawer came crashing <u>down</u> the stairs.
Adjective	I have to catch the <u>down</u> train in twenty minutes.
Verb	<u>Down</u> with the injustice!
Noun	They have had many ups and <u>downs</u> in life.

Either

Adjective	<u>Either</u> offer is good enough.
Conjunction	Ravi must <u>either</u> sign the contract or quit.
Pronoun	They must <u>either</u> beg or starve.

For

Preposition
Conjunction

She writes books for children.
Thank Mr Shah, for he saved the day.

Much

Adjective
Adverb
Pronoun

There was much sense in what you said.
Did it hurt very much?
You must bear much of the blame.

Neither

Conjunction
Adjective
Pronoun

Gauri will neither come home nor stay at your place.
Neither side was prepared for the war.
Neither of us believes you.

Once

Adverb
Conjunction
Noun

She was young and beautiful once.
Once the juice was served, breakfast began.
Can you support me for once?