Examples of Antonyms, Synonyms, and Homonyms

The English language is nothing if not complex. And that complexity lends itself well to some of the finest prose in history. The fact that we can say one thing a hundred different ways is surely part of the magic.

Certain words have identical meanings; some have similar meanings; others are as distinct as night and day. As for words with similarities, they're known as [synonyms](http://www.yourdictionary.com/synonym). [Antonyms](http://www.yourdictionary.com/antonym), however, are words that have opposite meanings.

Then, there's one other category of *-nym* words full of interest and intrigue. [Homonyms](http://www.yourdictionary.com/homonym) are words that are pronounced and spelled the same, although they have different meanings. Let's dive into an array of examples of antonyms, synonyms, and homonyms.

Antonym Examples

Antonyms can be used to demonstrate contrast between two things or provide clues as to what is meant. Here is a list of antonyms for you to review:

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| Achieve - Fail | Giant - Dwarf | Random - Specific |
| Afraid - Confident | Gloomy - Cheerful | Rigid - Flexible |
| Ancient - Modern | Individual - Group | Shame - Honor |
| Arrive - Depart | Innocent - Guilty | Simple - Complicated |
| Arrogant - Humble | Knowledge - Ignorance | Single - Married |
| Attack - Defend | Liquid - Solid | Sunny - Cloudy |
| Blunt - Sharp | Marvelous - Terrible | Timid - Bold |
| Brave - Cowardly | Noisy - Quiet | Toward - Away |
| Cautious - Careless | Partial - Complete | Tragic - Comic |
| Complex - Simple | Passive - Active | Transparent - Opaque |
| Crazy - Sane | Permanent - Unstable | Triumph - Defeat |
| Crooked - Straight | Plentiful - Sparse | Union - Separation |
| Demand - Supply | Positive - Negative | Unique - Common |
| Destroy - Create | Powerful - Weak | Upset - Relaxed |
| Divide - Unite | Praise - Criticism | Urge - Deter |
| Drunk - Sober | Private - Public | Vacant - Occupied |
| Expand - Contract | Problem - Solution | Vague - Definite |
| Freeze - Boil | Professional - Amateur | Villain - Hero |
| Full - Empty | Profit - Loss | Wax - Wane |
| Generous - Stingy | Quality - Inferiority | Wealth - Poverty |

Synonym Examples

Synonyms provide variety in our speech or writing. And, since there are endless arrays of synonyms, it's possible to avoid over-usage and repetition. Let's take a look at some examples of synonyms:

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| **Amazing:** astounding, surprising, stunning | **Fertile**, fruitful, abundant, productive | **Polite:** courteous, cordial, gracious |
| **Annihilation:** destruction, carnage, extinction | **Gargantuan:** colossal, mammoth, tremendous | **Portion:** piece, part, segment |
| **Benefit:** profit, revenue, yield | **Hungry:** empty, ravenous, starved | **Risky:** dangerous, perilous, treacherous |
| **Brave:** courageous, valiant, heroic | **Injured:** damaged, wounded, harmed | **Sleepy:** drowsy, listless, sluggish |
| **Cohesive:** united, connected, close-knit | **Intelligent:** brilliant, clever, smart | **Senseless:** absurd, illogical, unreasonable |
| **Cunning:** keen, sharp, slick | **Kindle:** ignite, inflame, burn | **Tumultuous:** hectic, raucous, turbulent |
| **Destitute:** poor, bankrupt, impoverished | **Loyal:** faithful, ardent, devoted | **Vacant:** empty, deserted, uninhabited |
| **Deterioration:** pollution, defilement, adulteration | **Old:** elderly, aged, senior | **Veracity:** authenticity, credibility, truthfulness |
| **Enormous:** huge, gigantic, massive | **Organization:** association, institution, management | **Wet:** damp, moist, soggy |
| **Feisty:** excitable, fiery, lively | **Partner:** associate, colleague, companion | **Young:** budding, fledgling, tenderfoot |

Homonym Examples

Homonyms are words that have the same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings. Here are some common homonym examples:

* **Atmosphere** - the gases surrounding the earth / the mood of a situation
* **Bail** - to clear out water / to release a prisoner
* **Band**- a ring, sometimes symbolizing eternity / a musical group
* **Beat** - to overcome something / to feel exhausted
* **Capital** - the chief city of a state / a crime punishable by death
* **Cleave** - to split or sever / to adhere to
* **Dive** - to go down quickly / an unpleasant place
* **Employ** - to put into use / to hire someone for a job
* **File** - to store computer data / to make a formal request
* **Fine** - being of high quality / sum of money used as a penalty
* **Grave** - something very serious / a place to bury the dead
* **Hide** - to keep something secret / the skin of an animal
* **Iron** - to press or smooth / silvery-gray metal
* **Jade** - a hard, green stone / a hardened or bad-tempered woman
* **Lark** - a small bird / something done for fun
* **Objective** - not being influenced by prejudice / the lens of a microscope or camera
* **Plaque** - an ornamental plate or slab that commemorates a person or event / a deposit on teeth prone to bacteria
* **Refrain** - to stop oneself from doing something / a repeated line in music or poetry
* **Reticule** - at a distance or disconnected / an unlikely possibility
* **Tender** - sensitive or painful to the touch / soft food i.e. a chicken tender

Homonyms are not to be confused with [homographs](http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-homographs.html) - words that are spelled the same but have different pronunciation and meanings - or [homophones](http://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-homophones.html) - words that are pronounced the same but have different spellings and meanings.

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| **S.No.** | **Words** | **Synonyms** | **Antonyms** |
| 1. | Acumen | Awareness, brilliance | Stupidity, Ignorance |
| 2. | Adhere | Comply, observe | Condemn, disjoin |
| 3. | Abolish | Abrogate, annual | Setup Establish |
| 4. | Abash | Disconcert, rattle | Uphold, Discompose |
| 5. | Abound | Flourish, proliferate | Deficient, Destitute |
| 6. | Abate | Moderate, decrease | Aggravate |
| 7. | Abject | Despicable, servile | Commendable, Praiseworthy |
| 8. | Abjure | Forsake, renounce | Approve, Sanction |
| 9. | Abortive | Vain, unproductive | Productive |
| 10. | Absolve | Pardon, forgive | Compel, Accuse |
| 11. | Accord | Agreement, harmony | Discord |
| 12. | Acrimony | Harshness, bitterness | Courtesy, Benevolence |
| 13. | Adamant | Stubborn, inflexible | Flexible, Soft |
| 14. | Adherent | Follower, disciple | Rival, Adversary |
| 15. | Adjunct | Joined, Added | Separated, Subtracted |
| 16. | Admonish | Counsel, reprove | Approve, Applaud |
| 17. | Adversity | Misfortune, calamity | Prosperity, Fortune |
| 18. | Alien | Foreigner, outsider | Native, Resident |
| 19. | Allay | Pacify, soothe | Aggravate, Excite |
| 20. | Alleviate | Abate, relieve | Aggravate, Enhance |
| 21. | Allure | Entice, fascinate | Repulse Repel |
| 22. | Ascend | Climb Escalate | Descend, Decline |
| 23. | Amplify | Augment, deepen | Lessen, Contract |
| 24. | Arraign | Incriminate, indict | Exculpate, Pardon |
| 25. | Audacity | Boldness, Courage | Mildness, Cowardice |
| 26. | Authentic | Accurate, credible | Fictitious, unreal |
| 27. | Awkward | Rude, blundering | Adroit, clever |
| 28. | Axiom | Adage, truism | Absurdity, Blunder |
| 29. | Baffle | Astound, Faze | Facilitate, Clarify |
| 30. | Bewitching | Alluring, charming | Repulsive, Repugnant |
| 31. | Bleak | Grim, Austere | Bright, Pleasant |
| 32. | Brittle | Breakable, crisp | Tough, Enduring |
| 33. | Bustle | Commotion, Tumult | Slowness, Quiet |
| 34. | Barbarous | Frustrate, perplex | Civilized |
| 35. | Baroque | Florid, gilt | Plain, unadorned |
| 36. | Barren | Desolate, Sterile | Damp, Fertile |
| 37. | Barrier | Barricade, Obstacle | Link, Assistance |
| 38. | Base | Vulgar, Coarse | Summit, Noble |
| 39. | Batty | Insane, silly | Sane |
| 40. | Bawdy | Erotic, Coarse | Decent, Moral |
| 41. | Befogged | Becloud, Dim | Clear headed, Uncloud |
| 42. | Benevolent | Benign, Generous | Malevolent, Miserly |
| 43. | Benign | Favorable, friendly | Malignant, Cruel |
| 44. | Bind | Predicament | Release |
| 45. | Bleak | Austere, Blank | Bright, Cheerful |
| 46. | Blunt | Dull, Insensitive | Keen, Sharp |
| 47. | Boisterous | Clamorous, rowdy | Placid, Calm |
| 48. | Bold | Adventurous | Timid |
| 49. | Busy | Active, Engaged | Idle, Lazy |
| 50. | Calculating | Canny, Devious | Artless, honest |
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