

## VOCABULARY BUILDING

### ☪ SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

#### SYNONYMS:

##### What are Synonyms?

Synonyms are words that substitute in a context for another words. Synonym is nothing but the similar meaning of a particular word or its semantic relation.

SYNONYM IS A WORD OR A PHRASE THAT MEANS THE SAME AS ANOTHER WORD OR A PHRASE IN THE SAME LANGUAGE.

Synonyms add interest and life to reading and writing. Synonyms can be any part of speech, as long as both members of the pair are the same part of speech. Generally, you wouldn't use more than two synonyms in the same sentence. Instead, to give variety to a paragraph, you'd use a synonym as a similar word to avoid repeating the same words from sentence to sentence or paragraph to paragraph. An example of synonyms is the words car and automobile.

More examples of English synonyms are:

##### Noun

"student" and "pupil"

"petty crime" and "misdemeanour"

##### Verb

"buy" and "purchase"

##### Adjective

"sick" and "ill"

##### Adverb

"quickly" and "speedily"

##### Preposition

"on" and "upon"

Note that synonyms are defined with respect to certain senses of words; for instance, pupil as the "aperture in the iris of the eye" is not synonymous with student. Similarly, he expired means the same as he died, yet my passport has expired cannot be replaced by my passport has died.

In English, many synonyms evolved from the parallel use, in the early medieval period, of Norman French (from Latin) and Old English (Anglo-Saxon) words, often with some words being used principally by the Saxon peasantry ("folk", "freedom", "bowman") and their synonyms by the Norman nobility ("people", "liberty", "archer").

#### Examples

Synonyms of Long:

elongated, lengthy, outstretched, extended

Synonyms of Create:

Cause, make, construct

Synonyms of Small:

Little, Mini, short, tiny, fine, petite

Synonyms of Jump:

Leap, Bounce, Hop, Vault, Spring

## STEPS FOR FINDING THE SYNONYM/ANTONYM OF A WORD

- Try to put the word in a sentence or a phrase and guess its meaning
- When you have a word try to guess all its synonyms and from the answers see the exact word which has the same meaning, in the case of antonym the opposite meaning
- Read all the options, most of us think of time and come up with the answer which has close match to the word. But there is an actual word with the same meaning hidden there.
- First know the part of the speech the word is used in... For example the word run can be used as a verb but it could also be used as noun like 'home run' so make sure you know the part of speech before answering.

Some words are eye catchy, you immediately think it's going to be the antonym/synonym, but most of the guesses are not going to be right so go through the options once again unless you are sure of the answer.

### EXAMPLE:

MALIGNED

- (a) beneficent      (b) magnanimous      (c) downtrodden      (d) destitute      (e) elegant

In the example, we are trying to find the best antonym for the word aligned. So, we should begin by ascertaining its charge. The prefix, "mal" is typically used in negatively charged words. Therefore, the answer will likely have a positive charge. Let's go through the list to see how each word is charged. A) beneficent (+) B) magnanimous (+) C) downtrodden (-) D) destitute (-) E) elegant (=) After labeling each, we are left with two words that are positively charged: beneficent and magnanimous.

Even if you don't know the meaning of any answer choices, you have narrowed your choices down to two and are left with a 50% chance of answering correctly. This is a quick technique that can be very beneficial when attempting to answer a question with several words that you are unsure about.

RESTIVE

- (a) patient      (b) rigorous      (c) deceptive      (d) active

The word, restive, is tricky, because it sounds like it has something to do with rest. Therefore, D) active would be the best antonym. However, this is a trick. Restive actually means restless. So, the correct answer is patient, a good antonym for restless.

FOMENT

- (a) mitigate      (b) engender      (c) check      (d) mollify      (e) satiate

The words mitigate and mollify are close synonyms. The both mean "to reduce or soften in pain or intensity, to make less severe." This leaves only three remaining viable answer choices.

### EXERCISE 1

**Directions for Q1 to Q10:** Choose the appropriate synonyms for the following:

1. AMBIENCE

- (a) Institution      (b) Atmosphere      (c) Assembly      (d) Encounter

Ans: [b]

2. PERPLEXITY  
(a) Conundrum (b) Question (c) Impudence (d) Unabashedness  
Ans: [a]
3. UBIQUITOUS  
(a) Omnipresent (b) Undesirable (c) Efficient (d) Luxurious  
Ans: [a]
4. QUERULOUS  
(a) Inquisitive (b) Thirsty (c) Depressed (d) Sullen  
Ans: [d]
5. EPHEMERAL  
(a) Ornamental (b) Short-lived (c) Untrue (d) Eternal  
Ans: [b]
6. BURDENSOME  
(a) Blunt (b) Waspish (c) Taxing (d) Untimely  
Ans: [c]
7. PERSIST  
(a) Forget (b) Endure (c) Induce (d) Ponder  
Ans: [b]
8. SCEPTICISM  
(a) Indifference (b) Unstable (c) Concern (d) Suspicion  
Ans: [d]
9. VOLATILE  
(a) Unstable (b) Steady (c) Homogenous (d) Stagnate  
Ans: [a]
10. FLAMBOYANT  
(a) Dull (b) Ornate (c) Proud (d) Costly  
Ans: [b]

## EXERCISE 2

**Directions for Q1 to Q10:** Replace the italic words in the following sentences with the word closest in meaning from the given options, without changing the meaning of the sentence.

1. The twins *bickered* constantly over petty issues.  
(a) Conferred (b) Rebuffed (c) Squabbled (d) Concede  
Ans: [c]
2. As a young boy, he used to be uncomfortable at public gatherings, this would make him the most *unlikely* orator.  
(a) Effective (b) Gregarious (c) Improbable (d) Fervent  
Ans: [c]

3. The qualities of the native music were not *ignored* by the foreign settlers.  
(a) Revered (b) Remarkd on (c) Neglected (d) Discerned  
Ans: [c]
4. In later years, she grew *reclusive* and shunned company.  
(a) Notorious (b) Dispassionate (c) Withdrawn (d) Ambivalent  
Ans: [c]
5. Sometimes facts are *uncertain* and data is hard to come by.  
(a) Relevant (b) Ineluctable (c) Elusive (d) Established  
Ans: [c]
6. During the military takeover, some of the clauses of the constitution were *suspended*.  
(a) Inoperative (b) Notarized (c) Promulgated (d) Undefined  
Ans: [a]
7. The author ridicules *conventional* notions of truth.  
(a) Unusual (b) Standard (c) Boring (d) Passive  
Ans: [b]
8. Her love for dance was *insatiable*.  
(a) Unchanging (b) Undesirable (c) Irreconcilable (d) Unquenchable  
Ans: [d]
9. The documents provided in the court were *fabricated*.  
(a) Genuine (b) Historical (c) Prepared (d) Forged  
Ans: [d]
10. He is quite *sanguine* about his results.  
(a) Depressed (b) Anxious (c) Optimistic (d) Pessimistic  
Ans: [c]

## ANTONYMS:

An antonym is a word that is the opposite meaning of another. It comes from the Greek words "anti" for opposite and "onym" for name. Since language is complex, people may at times, disagree on what words are truly opposite in meaning to other words.

Categories of Antonyms

There are three categories of antonyms:

### 1. Graded Antonyms

Graded Antonyms deal with levels of the meaning of the words, like if something is not "good", it may still not be "bad." There is a scale involved with some words, and besides good and bad there can be average, fair, excellent, terrible, poor, or satisfactory.

Example:

- Last and first
- Foolish and wise

- Abundant and scarce
- Dark and light
- Dangerous and safe
- Clever and foolish
- Early and late
- Empty and full
- Smart and dumb
- Risky and safe
- Bad and good
- Pretty and ugly
- Best and worst
- Rich and poor
- Cool and hot
- Wet and dry
- Late and early
- Ignorant and educated
- Big and small
- Optimistic and pessimistic
- Excited and bored
- Dull and interesting

## 2. Complementary Antonyms

Complementary antonyms have a relationship where there is no middle ground. There are only two possibilities, either one or the other.

- Dead and alive
- Off and on
- Day and night
- Absent and present
- Exit and entrance
- Sink or float
- True or false
- Input and output
- Interior and exterior
- Exhale and inhale

## 3. Relational Antonyms

Relational antonyms are sometimes considered a subcategory of complementary antonyms. With these pairs, for there to be a relationship, both must exist.

Example:

- Doctor and patient
- Buy and sell
- Predator and prey

- Above and below
- Teach and learn
- Instructor and pupil
- Servant and master
- Borrow and lend

## EXAMPLE

Choose the best antonym.

Restive

- (a) Patient                      (b) Rigorous                      (c) Deceptive                      (d) Active                      (e) Cautious

## Solution:

The word, restive, is tricky, because it sounds like it has something to do with rest. Therefore, option (D) active would be the best antonym. However, this is a trick. Restive actually means restless. So, the correct answer is patient, a good antonym for restless

## Tips to Solve Antonym Questions

Take note of positively and negatively charged answer choices. It is possible to associate a negative or positive charge with almost any given word. Try to discern whether each word in the following list has a positive (+), negative (-), or neutral (=) charge.

1. Capricious  
(a) Approximate                      (b) Capricious                      (c) Rational                      (d) Discretionary  
Ans: [c]
2. Dexterous  
(a) Able                      (b) Active                      (c) Acute                      (d) Inexpert  
Ans: [d]
3. Gumption  
(a) Sagacity                      (b) Initiative                      (c) Nerve                      (d) Apathy  
Ans: [d]
4. Tacit  
(a) Punish                      (b) Dictated                      (c) Grand                      (d) Small  
Ans: [b]
5. Inordinate  
(a) Moderate                      (b) Wanton                      (c) Wasteful                      (d) Dizzying  
Ans: [a]
6. Reprisal  
(a) Sympathy                      (b) Avengement                      (c) Avenging                      (d) Retaliation  
Ans: [a]
7. Facile  
(a) Ready                      (b) Profound                      (c) Simple                      (d) Shallow  
Ans: [b]

8. Vanity  
(a) Arrogance (b) Display (c) Humility (d) Pretension  
Ans: [c]
9. Retaliate  
(a) Depart (b) Settle (c) Recompense (d) Get  
Ans: [a]
10. Abstain  
(a) Withhold (b) Continue (c) Starve (d) Refrain  
Ans: [b]

## ☞ ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

1. Extreme old age when a man behaves like a fool  
(a) Imbecility (b) Senility (c) Dotage (d) Superannuation  
Ans: [c]
2. One who possesses many talents  
(a) Versatile (b) Nubile (c) Exceptional (d) Gifted  
Ans: [a]
3. Words inscribed on tomb  
(a) Epitome (b) Epistle (c) Epilogue (d) Epitaph  
Ans: [d]
4. The custom or practice of having more than one husband at same time  
(a) Polygyny (b) Polyphony (c) Polyandry (d) Polychromy  
Ans: [c]
5. In a state of tension or anxiety or suspense  
(a) Off balance (b) Depressed (c) Diffused (d) On tenterhooks  
Ans: [d]
6. Something which is not through or profound  
(a) Superficial (b) Superstitious (c) Superfluous (d) Supernatural  
Ans: [a]
7. To mediate between two parties in a dispute  
(a) Interfere (b) Interact (c) Interrupt (d) Intercede  
Ans: [d]
8. Commencement of words with the same letter:  
(a) Pun (b) Alliteration (c) Transferred epithet (d) Oxymoron  
Ans: [b]
9. A remedy for all diseases:  
(a) Narcotics (b) Antiseptic (c) Panacea (d) Lyric  
Ans: [c]



10. Use of force or threats to get someone to agree to something:  
(a) Coercion (b) Conviction (c) Confession (d) Cajolement  
Ans: [a]
11. Open to injury or Criticism :  
(a) Invincible (b) Vulnerable (c) Naive (d) Sensitive  
Ans: [b]
12. A person who is indifferent to pains and pleasure of life:  
(a) Stoic (b) Sadist (c) Psychiatrist (d) Aristocrat  
Ans: [a]
13. One who able to use the right and left hands equally well:  
(a) Sinister (b) Ambidextrous (c) Ambivalent (d) Amateur  
Ans: [b]
14. Story of old time gods or heroes is:  
(a) Lyric (b) Epic (c) Legend (d) Romance  
Ans: [c]
15. A lady who remains unmarried:  
(a) Spinster (b) Artist (c) Bachelor (d) Misanthrope  
Ans: [a]

**Directions for Q16 to Q25:** From the four alternatives in each question, select the word which can be substituted for the given phrase/sentence.

16. Force someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence  
(a) Abduction (b) Adjudicate (c) Recluse (d) Lynch  
Ans: [a]
17. Husband's (or wife's) provision for a spouse after separation or divorce; maintenance  
(a) Bounty (b) Charity (c) Alimony (d) Limbo  
Ans: [c]
18. Member of a group of people who move from place to place instead of living in one place all the time  
(a) Refugee (b) Nomad (c) Pedestrian (d) Reverend  
Ans: [b]
19. Person who does not have expert knowledge of a particular subject  
(a) Layoff (b) Buff (c) Quack (d) Layman  
Ans: [d]
20. Having the letters q, w, e, r, t, and y arranged in a row in the top row of letter keys  
(a) Chronology (b) Qwerty (c) Wrest (d) Quid pro quo  
Ans: [b]
21. View or sight that looks like a picture  
(a) Tabloid (b) Graffiti (c) Dekko (d) Tableau  
Ans: [b]



22. Law or regulation made by a city or town government  
(a) Ordinance (b) Ordinance (c) Legacy (d) Jurisdiction  
Ans: [a]
23. Plan of a journey, including the route and the places that you visit  
(a) Folio (b) Ploy (c) Itinerary (d) Topography  
Ans: [c]
24. Corrupt behaviour in a position of trust, especially in public office  
(a) Malpractice (b) Malinger (c) Malaise (d) Potpourri  
Ans: [b]
25. Period of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activity are reduced  
(a) Inception (b) Locus standi (c) Recession (d) Tete-a-tete  
Ans: [c]

## WORD PAIRS

Certain words go together like *bread and water*. *Bread and water* is an example of a word pair that is always used in that order. In other words, we don't say *water and bread*. This type of word pair is called non reversible. In many ways, they are like collocations — words that usually go together.

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Day and        | 16. Hide and    |
| 2. Fish and       | 17. Out and     |
| 3. Coming and     | 18. Forgive and |
| 4. Well and       | 19. Wear and    |
| 5. High and       | 20. Fair and    |
| 6. Ins and        | 21. Safe and    |
| 7. Here and       | 22. Hot and     |
| 8. Brush and      | 23. Cats and    |
| 9. Black and      | 24. Lock and    |
| 10. Now and       | 25. Down and    |
| 11. Bits and      | 26. Sixes and   |
| 12. High and      | 27. Free and    |
| 13. Backwards and | 28. Fast and    |
| 14. Hard and      | 29. Out and     |
| 15. Nuts and      | 30. Length and  |

## ANSWERS:

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. Night | 16. Seek  |
| 2. Chips | 17. About |

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 3. Going    | 18. Forget   |
| 4. Good     | 19. Tear     |
| 5. Dry      | 20. Square   |
| 6. Outs     | 21. Sound    |
| 7. There    | 22. Bothered |
| 8. Paste    | 23. Dogs     |
| 9. White    | 24. Key      |
| 10. Then    | 25. Out      |
| 11. Pieces  | 26. Sevens   |
| 12. Dry     | 27. Clear    |
| 13. Forward | 28. Furious  |
| 14. Fast    | 29. Out      |
| 15. Spices  | 30. Breath   |

**Directions for Q31 to Q40:** Complete the word pair in each of the following sentences.

31. There must first be **law and** \_\_\_\_ in the country before elections can be held.
32. The aim of the campaign was, **first and** \_\_\_\_ to make the public aware of the dangers of obesity.
33. The result of the election was declared \_\_\_\_ **and void** because of massive vote-buying.
34. Why bring up old quarrels that have lain \_\_\_\_ **and buried** all these years?
35. It is grossly unfair that only the senior staff and not the \_\_\_\_ **and file**, are entitled to paid leave.
36. "I'm telling you all \_\_\_\_ **and now** that you are all fired," bellowed the boss.
37. You can trust Sandra to do a good job as she is a professional \_\_\_\_ **and through**.
38. Although he has owed me a few thousand dollars, he is paying me back in **dribs and** \_\_\_\_ as he has just started working.
39. The children were having a **rough-and-** \_\_\_\_ when one of them hurt his hand.
40. It is simply unthinkable that he could have committed such a hideous crime against his own \_\_\_\_ **and blood**.

**ANSWERS:**

- |            |              |             |           |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 31. order  | 32. foremost | 33. null    | 34. dead  |
| 35. rank   | 36. here     | 37. through | 38. drabs |
| 39. tumble | 40. flesh    |             |           |

**Directions for Q41 to Q50:** Complete the following sentences with words pairs being used as **nouns**.

41. There was a great \_\_\_\_ among the residents when the authorities decided to close down the public swimming pool.
42. The \_\_\_\_ of the island were almost wiped out by the catastrophic volcanic eruptions.

43. Life is rarely easy. Most of us at some time or other have to go through \_\_\_\_.
44. He could not sleep a wink as he \_\_\_\_ the whole night, thinking about the impending trial.
45. The speaker stood on the platform \_\_\_\_ away about the high cost of living and the scarcity of jobs.
46. When all is \_\_\_\_, you will have legal possession of the house.
47. Some candidates have resorted to \_\_\_\_ tactics to get the people to vote for them in the elections.
48. I really admire Nancy for devoting herself \_\_\_\_ to the mission of saving lives.
49. The shuttle bus runs \_\_\_\_, ferrying passengers between the airport and the downtown area.
50. The frightened little girl was seen running \_\_\_\_, screaming for her mother.

## ANSWERS:

- |                        |                        |                             |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 41. hue and cry        | 42. flora and fauna    | 43. trials and tribulations |
| 44. tossed and turned  | 45. ranting and raving | 46. signed and sealed       |
| 47. cloak and dagger   | 48. body and soul      | 49. back and forth          |
| 50. hither and thither |                        |                             |

## 🌀 SPELLINGS

Spellings in English can be quite confusing. This is probably why verbal ability tests include them. Spellings can be tested in several ways.

### Type 1

Choose the correctly spelt word.

E.g.: (a) accomadate (b) accommodate (c) accomodate (d) acomodate

Ans: [b]

### Type 2

Fill in the blanks using the correctly spelt options.

E.g.: Confidence is \_\_\_\_ to build a great \_\_\_\_.

(a) necessary, carrier

(b) neccessary, carrier

(c) necessary, career

(d) nessaccery, carrear

Ans.: Option (c)

### Type 3

Choose the sentence having no spell errors.

E.g.: (a) Effective communication is the keystone to better productivity.

(b) Looks like their differences are irrevocible.

(c) I have been forced to learn English grammer.

(d) Chocolates are irresistable.

Ans.: Option (a). The correct spellings are 'irrevocable', 'grammar' and 'irresistible'.

## Approach Methodology

**In the case of spelling exercises where you have to identify the correctly spelt word, here's a simple method to follow.**

**Step 1:** Glance at the question just long enough to catch the word tested. Beware: Do not analyse the word options.

**Step 2:** Turn away from the question and write the word on a paper without much thought. You are likely to be correct especially if you have sufficient English exposure.

## Some Basic Spelling Trivia

**1. Which comes first? 'I' or 'E'? Normally 'I' comes before 'E' except after 'C', words that rhyme with hay' and certain other exclusions.**

E.g.: 'I' before 'E' → achieve, believe, handkerchief, hygiene, patient, pierce

'E' before 'I' → ceiling, conceit, deceive, perceive, receive, receipt

'E' before 'I' → beige, freight, neighbour, sleigh, vein, weight

'E' before 'I' → either, foreign, forfeit, leisure, neither, seize, weird

**2. A final 'Y' changes to 'I' when an ending is added.**

E.g.: Supply – Supplies

Merry – Merrier

Exceptions: (i) When the ending is 'ing',

E.g.: Study – studying, cry – crying

(or)

(ii) When the 'Y' is preceded by a vowel.

E.g.: Obey – Obeyed, Sway – Swaying

**3. A silent 'E' is dropped when adding an ending that begins with a vowel.**

E.g.: Advance + ing = Advancing

Pursue + ance = Pursuance

However, the 'E' remains when the ending begins with a consonant, unless the 'E' is preceded by a vowel.

E.g.: Like + ness = Likeness

Improve + ment = Improvement

Argue + ment = Argument

True + ly = Truly

**4. Adding a prefix rarely changes the spelling of a word.**

E.g.: Unnecessary, Disregard, Antibiotic, Mismanagement

**5. Plurals are formed in English by adding 'S' or 'ES' .**

i. For words that end in 'SS', 'SH', 'CH' or 'X', add 'ES'.

E.g.: Switch – Switches

ii. In case of plurals for words ending in a consonant plus 'Y', change the 'Y' to 'I' and add 'ES'. For proper nouns, keep the 'Y'.

E.g.: Company – Companies

iii. For most nouns ending in 'F' or 'FE' add 'S'. However, for some you have to change the 'F' to 'V' and add 'S' or 'ES'. There is no rule to follow here.

E.g.: Belief – Beliefs, Giraffe – Giraffes

Half – Halves

iv. For most nouns ending in 'O', add 'S'. However, for some you have to add 'ES'. Again, there is no rule here.

E.g.: Curio – Curios, Silo – Silos, Studio – Studios

Domino – Dominoes, Embargo – Embargoes,

Potato – Potatoes

v. Irregular plurals just have to be memorised.

E.g.: Analysis, Analyses, Focus – Foci, Goose – Geese, Phenomenon – Phenomena

**6. When adding an ending (like 'ed', 'ing', etc.) to a word that ends in a consonant, we double that consonant when**

- the ending begins with a vowel,
- the last syllable of the word is accented and that syllable ends in a single vowel followed by a single consonant.

E.g.: Admit + ed = Admitted, Begin + ing = Beginning, Control + able = Controllable

'Admit', 'Begin' and 'Control' are accented on the last syllable and the final consonant is preceded by a vowel, so we double the 'T', 'N' and 'L' respectively.

Flap + ed = Flapped

'Flap' contains only one syllable which means it has to be accented.

Despair + ed = Despaired

In 'despair', the final consonant is preceded by two vowels, so we don't double it.

**7. Sometimes words have silent letters. These follow patterns that can be memorized.**

gn, pn, kn = n		
gnome	pneumonia	knife
rh, wr = r		
rhyme	wrestle	
pt, ght = t		
ptomaine	height	
ps, sc = s		
psalm	science	
wh = h		
whole		

8. Determine whether the word is used as noun or a verb. For certain words, the noun form has 'C' while the verb form has 'S' in the place of 'C'.

E.g.: My father gave me some valuable advice. (Here, 'advice' is a noun meaning 'guidance' or 'suggestion'.)

I have to advise my friend to stop smoking. (Here, 'advise' is a verb meaning to 'counsel' or 'give advice'. Similarly, we have device – devise, practice – practise, prophecy – prophesy, etc.

## EXERCISE 1

Correct the spelling mistakes in the paragraph.

1. George new that he shouldn't drink alchohol on a Wednesday night, especially since his governmet proffesor had schedualed an important exam on Thrusday. However, he beleived he would loose his friends if he didn't go out with them. The pressure to fit in with his peers was worst then the fear of bad grades. To be popular among his friends, one had to be either a musclar athelete or a wild and crazy drinker. George realy could not concieve how it was posible for a student to consume huge quanities of liquor and still suceed in school. Maybe the drinkers were just more brilliant than he was. He didn't even enjoy the passtime of spending ours in a bar trying to persue a temperary feeling of excitement and "fun." Somehow he expected the cheif of campus security to catch him and the university administration to expell him. But George didn't posses enough courage to express his opion to his friends. He was certian they would tell him to mind his own buisness. Also, he did't want to be seperated from his friends. So he planed to meet them at a local restaraunt, have a few drinks, leave early, take some aspirin, and spend a few ours studing for the exam.

1. Ans: George **knew** that he shouldn't drink **alcohol** on a **Wednesday** night, especially since his **government professor** had **scheduled** an important exam on **Thursday**. However, he **believed** he would **lose** his friends if he didn't go out with them. The pressure to fit in with his peers was **worse than** the fear of bad grades. To be popular among his friends, one had to be either a **muscular athlete** or a wild and crazy drinker. George **really** could not **conceive** how it was **possible** for a student to consume huge **quantities** of liquor and still **succeed** in school. Maybe the drinkers were just more **brilliant** than he was. He didn't even enjoy the **pastime** of spending **hours** in a bar trying to **pursue** a **temporary** feeling of excitement and "fun." Somehow he expected the **chief** of campus security to catch him and the university administration to **expel** him. But George didn't **possess** enough courage to express his **opinion** to his friends. He was **certain** they would tell him to mind his own **business**. Also, he **didn't** want to be **separated** from his friends. So he **planned** to meet them at a local **restaurant**, have a few drinks, leave early, take some **aspirin**, and spend a few **hours studying** for the exam.

## EXERCISE 2

- My father keeps all his \_\_\_\_\_ papers in a lock.  
(a) Confidantial (b) Confidential (c) Confedential (d) Confidtiol  
Ans: [b]
- The police \_\_\_\_\_ the mob.  
(a) Dispersed (b) Dispresed (c) Dispursed (d) Disperced  
Ans: [a]
- The photographs in the papers bore no \_\_\_\_\_ at all to the originals.  
(a) Ressemblance (b) Resemmblance (c) Resemblance (d) Reesemblance  
Ans: [c]
- A legislation passed to punish brokers who \_\_\_\_\_ their clients funds.  
(a) Embezzle (b) Embazzle (c) Embezel (d) Embeezle  
Ans: [a]

5. That charming girl was the \_\_\_\_\_ of all eyes.  
(a) Synosure (b) Shynosure (c) Cynosure (d) Cynosore  
Ans: [c]
6. Subash Chandra Bose was a \_\_\_\_\_ leader.  
(a) maverick (b) mavrik (c) maveric (d) mavarik  
Ans: [a]
7. Daniel's actions are \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) inane (b) inene (c) incane (d) inan  
Ans: [a]
8. Jagan's decision of leaving the work was not \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) impitus (b) impetos (c) impetuous (d) impetous  
Ans: [c]
9. The interviewer is \_\_\_\_\_ with the interviewees.  
(a) dour (b) dore (c) duor (d) doar  
Ans: [a]
10. Whenever my friend is angry she wants me to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) lacnic (b) laconic (c) laconec (d) laconik  
Ans: [b]

## EXERCISE 3

Tick the correctly spelt word

1. (a) Favourite (b) Favorete (c) Favouritte (d) Favoritte  
Ans: [a]
2. (a) Sucessful (b) Successful (c) Sucesful (d) Successfull  
Ans: [b]
3. (a) Accommodation (b) Acommodation (c) Acomodation (d) Accomodation  
Ans: [a]
4. (a) Embarassed (b) Embarrassed (c) Embarased (d) Embaarased  
Ans: [b]
5. (a) Assistant (b) Assisstant (c) Asistant (d) Asisstant  
Ans: [a]
6. (a) Neccessary (b) Necessary (c) Necessary (d) Neccesary  
Ans: [c]
7. (a) Bussiness (b) Bussines (c) Business (d) Business  
Ans: [d]
8. (a) Gauranttee (b) Guarantee (c) Gaurantee (d) Guarantte  
Ans: [b]



9. (a) Fourty (b) Forty (c) Fortey (d) Fourtey  
Ans: [b]
10. (a) Achevie (b) Acheieve (c) Acheive (d) Achieve  
Ans: [d]

## 🌀 IDIOMS AND ANALOGY

### IDIOMS

What are idioms?

Idioms

#### Definition:

An **idiom** (also called **idiomatic expression**) is an expression, word, or phrase that has a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms don't mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, hidden meaning.

#### Examples

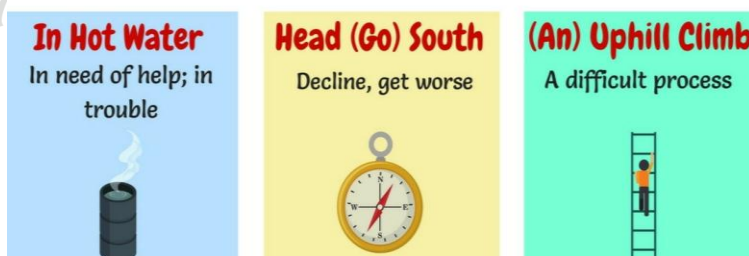
- "Kick the bucket"
- "Spill the beans"

**Idiom:** A common expression understood figuratively, as the literal definition makes no sense. The meaning of these expressions is different from the literal meaning or definition of the words of which they are made. Their meanings are however used figuratively. They mean respectively:

- "to die "
- "Disclose a secret "

Idioms do not convey the exact meaning of the words but are an expression of a hidden meaning.

### Business Idioms: Problems



#### Above Water

- **Meaning:** Not in extreme difficulty. Especially said of finances.
- **Example:** *We're not rich, but we're keeping our heads **above water**.*

## Come Out in the Wash

- **Meaning:** To be resolved with no lasting negative effect
- **Example:** *Right now it seems as though you have a lot of problems, but don't worry – it will all **come out in the wash**.*

Note: This is used most often in the construction “it will all come out in the wash.”

## Cut Corners

- **Meaning:** Economize by reducing quality; take shortcuts
- **Example:** *Let's not **cut corners** on the roofing materials – with the rainstorms around here, we'd regret it later.*

## (The) Last Straw

- **Meaning:** A problem or insult that finally demands a response
- **Example:** *It's always annoying when Rudy brings food to his office, but today he brought a durian. That's the **last straw** – I'm going to complain to the boss.*

## Body Part Idioms

- Cross your fingers – For good luck.
- Fell on deaf ears – People wouldn't listen to something.
- Get cold feet – Be nervous.
- Giving the cold shoulder – Ignore someone.
- Have a change of heart – Changed your mind.
- I'm all ears – You have my full attention.
- It cost an arm and a leg – It was expensive.

## Everyday Idioms

- A grey area – Something unclear
- A rip-off – Too expensive
- Add fuel to the fire – To add more to an existing problem
- As easy as ABC – Something is very easy
- Call it a day – Time to quit
- Cool as a cucumber – To be very calm under stress
- Draw a blank – Can't remember
- Get a kick out of it – Really enjoy/like something
- Get your act together – Behave properly
- Give it a shot – To try to do something
- Have mixed feelings – Be unsure of how you feel
- Have second thoughts – Have doubts
- In the same boat – Be in the same situation
- It's in the bag – It's a certainty

- Out of the blue – With no warning
- Pass with flying colors – To succeed at something easily
- Piece of cake – Something very easy
- Read between the lines – Find the hidden meaning
- Second to none – The best
- The icing on the cake – Something additional that turns good into great

## Animal Idioms

- A bull in a china shop - Someone who is very clumsy
- Birdbrain - Someone who is not very smart
- Busy as a bee – To be very active and working hard at something
- Cat got your tongue? - Why aren't you talking?
- Cry crocodile tears - To pretend to be upset
- Curiosity killed the cat - Asking too many questions may get you in trouble
- Different kettle of fish - Something completely different
- Doggy bag - A bag to take home leftovers from a restaurant
- Fish out of water - Being somewhere you don't belong
- Get off your high horse - Quit thinking you are better than others
- Hold your horses - Wait a minute
- Horse of a different color - Something that is quite different, a separate issue
- Let the cat out of the bag - Tell a secret
- Make a mountain out of a molehill - Make something unimportant into a big deal
- Night owl - Someone who stays up late
- Stir a hornet's nest – To cause a lot of trouble
- When pigs fly - To say something is impossible
- Wolf in sheep's clothing - A person who pretends to be nice but is not
- You can't teach an old dog new tricks - It's harder for older people to learn new things

## EXERCISE 1

1. At one's wit's end  
(a) Perplexed (b) Clear Up (c) Explain (d) Enlighten  
Ans: [a]
2. At one's fingertips  
(a) To take revenge (b) Matter of shame (c) Complete knowledge (d) None of these  
Ans: [c]
3. At the spur of the moment  
(a) Difficult Moment (b) Without Delay (c) Great Moment (d) Very Slow  
Ans: [b]

4. All in all  
(a) Every person (b) Particular thing same in all  
(c) Call all at once (d) Most important  
Ans: [d]
5. Apple Pie Order  
(a) In random order (b) Related to fruits packing  
(c) Related to dry fruit packing (d) In perfect order  
Ans: [d]
6. At close quarters  
(a) close examinations (b) live near to each other (c) live far to each other (d) in love  
Ans: [a]
7. Above board  
(a) boasting person (b) honest and straightforward  
(c) a man with arrogance (d) a dishonest person  
Ans: [b]
8. As fit as a fiddle  
(a) Very weak (b) Recovering from illness  
(c) Looks fit but not fit actually (d) None of these  
Ans: [d]
9. At logger heads  
(a) In difficulty (b) to be at strife (c) very happy together (d) None of these  
Ans: [b]
10. An apple of discord  
(a) cause of wealth (b) cause of illness (c) cause of happiness (d) cause of quarrel  
Ans: [d]
11. At a loss  
(a) at a business loss (b) at a relation loss (c) to be unable to decide (d) None of these  
Ans: [c]
12. At dagger's drawn  
(a) to have bitter enmity (b) to be very friendly (c) to be unknown (d) to be very familiar  
Ans: [a]
13. Bone of contention  
(a) Point of an argument (b) Worthless (c) Without any hesitation (d) To succeed  
Ans: [a]
14. Talk through one's hat  
(a) Talk good points (b) To talk secretly (c) Talk positively (d) Talk nonsense  
Ans: [d]

15. Bite the bullet  
(a) To get someone drunk (b) Talking nonsense  
(c) Fight with others (d) Face unpleasant situation  
Ans: [d]
16. Hand over fist  
(a) Get panic (b) State of high alert  
(c) Quickly and continuously (d) Get comfortable  
Ans: [c]
17. Black Sheep  
(a) A costly item (b) A dark shiny object  
(c) An unworthy person in a family or group (d) A funny man  
Ans: [c]
18. Spill the beans  
(a) Arrive just on time (b) Feel sick  
(c) To screw up (d) Reveal someone's secret  
Ans: [d]
19. To fly off the handle  
(a) To be confused (b) Making friendship  
(c) Punish someone (d) To lose one's temper  
Ans: [d]
20. Make a name for oneself  
(a) To gain fame (b) To disturb others  
(c) To help others (d) Escape from trouble  
Ans: [a]

## Some more Common Idioms List

Common Idioms	Meaning
It cost me <b>an arm and a leg</b> to take my trip to Australia.	<i>Very expensive</i>
I was <b>over the moon</b> when he asked me to marry him.	<i>Extremely pleased or happy</i>
You are taking your IELTS test next week?? Aren't you <b>jumping the gun</b> . You've only just started studying.	<i>Doing or starting something too early</i>
He comes round to see me <b>once in a blue moon</b> .	<i>Happening very rarely</i>
He's got a <b>chip on his shoulder</b> .	<i>Feeling inferior or having a grievance about something</i>
I reckon getting a band 7 in IELTS will be a <b>piece of cake</b> ! I'm very good at English.	<i>Very easy</i>
The money sent by comic relief to help poverty in Africa is just a <b>drop in the ocean</b> . They need far more than this.	<i>A very small part of something much bigger</i>
Getting a low score the first time I took IELTS was a <b>blessing in disguise</b> . It forced me to study extremely hard so I got a much better score the next time.	<i>Something positive that isn't recognized until later</i>

We have to actually do something about global warming. <b>Actions speak louder than words.</b>	<i>It's better to actually do something rather than just talking about it</i>
I bumped into Jenny in town the other day. <b>It's a small world.</b>	<i>Meeting someone you would not have expected to</i>

Common Idioms	Meaning
Oh well, I got 5.5 in IELTS again. <b>Back to the drawing board!</b>	<i>When an attempt to do something fails and it's time to start all over again using different methods</i>
I hate my job so much I can't bare going to work, but if I quit I don't think I can get another job. I'm really <b>stuck / caught between a rock and a hard place.</b>	<i>Having two very bad choices.</i> (note: stuck/caught can be omitted)
I have to <b>bite my tongue</b> so I don't say what I really think of him!	<i>Wanting to say something but stopping yourself.</i>
Come on, <b>cut to the chase.</b> We haven't got all day!	<i>Leave out all the unnecessary details and just get to the point</i>
Are you putting all of your savings into that company? Don't <b>put all your eggs in one basket.</b>	<i>Putting all of ones resources into one possibility</i>
Try not to worry about it. <b>Every cloud has a silver lining.</b>	<i>Believing that every bad situation has a positive side / eventually leads to something good</i>
It was difficult when I moved to another country but I eventually <b>found my feet.</b>	<i>To become comfortable in what you are doing</i>
My parents are very <b>fixed in their ways.</b> They won't start using the internet.	<i>Not wanting to change from the normal ways of doing things</i>
I think he <b>got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning.</b> He is in a terrible mood.	<i>To refer to someone who is having a bad day</i>
My mother will always <b>go the extra mile</b> to help people.	<i>Doing much more than is required when doing something</i>

Common Idioms	Meaning
I think you've <b>hit the nail on the head.</b> That's the reason he didn't get the job.	<i>Say exactly the right thing</i>
Today's going so badly. <b>If it's not one thing, it's the other.</b>	<i>When everything seems to be going wrong</i>
I just said it in <b>the heat of the moment.</b> I was angry. I know I shouldn't have.	<i>Saying or doing something suddenly without thinking about it</i>
<b>Keep an eye on him.</b> I think he may cheat in the exam.	<i>Watch someone or something carefully</i>
Have you heard? John down the road has <b>kicked the bucket.</b>	<i>Died</i>
I don't want to argue with him again. It's better to <b>let sleeping dogs lie.</b>	<i>Avoid a conflict</i>
I told him what gift you have bought him for his birthday. Sorry, I didn't mean to <b>let the cat out of the bag.</b>	<i>Tell someone something that you were not supposed to</i>



Don't tell her what you really think of her if she's helping you with your English! Don't <b>bite the hand that feeds you</b> .	Hurt or upset someone who is helping you
I'm not sure which party he is going to vote for. He's <b>sitting on the fence</b> .	Not making a firm decision between different choices
Everything she does is very <b>over the top</b> . She can't just have a few drinks - she has to get really drunk.	Excessive

Common Idioms	Meaning
Let's keep studying for IELTS. <b>Practice makes perfect</b> .	Continuously doing something to improve
Don't get upset about what he said. He's just <b>pulling your leg</b> .	Joking around
Sorry but I think I'll <b>take a rain check</b> on that.	To decline an offer that you will take up later
As a <b>rule of thumb</b> , I don't study at weekends. I spend the time with my family.	Principal that is strictly adhered / kept to
I can <b>smell a rat</b> . He said he has a PhD but he can't even remember which university he studied at.	To sense that something is not right
She's <b>the spitting image</b> of her mother.	To look exactly like someone else
<b>The ball's in your court</b> now. What are you going to do?	Telling someone it's now their turn to make a decision
Unfortunately I think he'll be studying for IELTS <b>until the cows come home</b> . His English is very poor.	For a very long time
It was all <b>tongue-in-cheek</b> . He didn't really mean what he said.	Something said in humour rather than seriously
She's feeling <b>under the weather</b> today so she won't be going to work.	Unwell

Common Idioms	Meaning
We've had some big disagreements over the years, but it's all <b>water under the bridge</b> now. We get on fine.	Things from the past that are not important anymore
<b>You are what you eat</b> so it's better to have a healthy diet.	If you eat bad food, you'll be unhealthy, if you eat good food, you'll be healthy
<b>You can't judge a book by its cover</b> . I need to get to know him before I decide what he is like.	The belief that outside appearances do not reveal what someone or something is really like
We're really <b>working against the clock</b> now. We must hurry.	Not having enough time to do something
Why are we bothering? We're <b>flogging a dead horse</b> . Our online business is making no money, so we should move on and do something else.	Attempting to continue with something that is finished / over
I <b>bent over backwards</b> to help him. I hope he appreciates it.	Doing all you can to help someone
So you have the IELTS test today?? <b>Break a leg</b> .	Good luck



Ok, I'm <b>playing devil's advocate</b> here, but if marijuana is legalized, isn't it more likely young people will smoke it?	<i>To put forward a side in an argument that may not be your own in order to show the counter-argument / ensure all sides are discussed</i>
<b>Hold your horses!</b> We haven't won anything yet.	<i>Telling someone who is getting ahead of themselves to wait / be patient</i>
She is <b>driving me up the wall</b> . She won't stop talking.	<i>Annoying or irritating somebody</i>

Trainers can use these for testing in the class as well as assessments.

## EXERCISE 2

Out of four alternatives given for idioms/phrases underlined in the following sentences, choose one which expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

- A fair weather friend always tries **to fish in troubled waters** of his friends and benefactors.  
(a) To borrow money (b) To steal belongings of  
(c) To get benefit in bad situation. (d) To extend a helping hand.  
Ans: [c]
- His arrogant behavior with others has left him **high and dry**.  
(a) To be penniless (b) To be very sick (c) To be very famous (d) Isolated  
Ans: [d]
- All the residents of the colony **painted the town red** on the eve of festival.  
(a) To white wash buildings (b) To renovate buildings  
(c) To celebrate noisily in public places (d) To create nuisances  
Ans: [c]
- The chairman **pulled a long face** when the house did not accept the suggestions put forth by him.  
(a) To look disappointed (b) To get annoyed  
(c) To be agitated (d) To make a quarrel  
Ans: [a]
- The **fair and square** policy of the chairman of the committee has made him very popular among the residents of the town.  
(a) Clever and Deceitful (b) Honest  
(c) Ambiguous (d) Relevant and practical  
Ans: [b]
- Due his bad habit of borrowing money from others, he will **be in the mire** one day.  
(a) to be punished (b) To be imprisoned (c) To be insulted (d) to be in trouble  
Ans: [d]
- I do not like his habit of **mincing matters**.  
(a) Not to speak plainly (b) To brag about (c) To be talkative (d) To show off  
Ans: [a]
- The chairman of the corporation **plays a second fiddle** to the minister.  
(a) To extend a helping hand (b) To play a secondary role  
(c) To be guiding person (d) To be facilitator  
Ans: [b]

9. In order to become a successful administrator in the office, an executive has **to keep his ears to the ground**.  
(a) To be very polite (b) To encourage backbiting  
(c) To keep informed about happening in surrounding (d) To have a strict control over all  
Ans: [c]
10. He had **to go through the motion** of starting with this new project as he was least interested to take up it.  
(a) To complete quickly (b) To do a work without enthusiasm  
(c) To do without any interest (d) To work at a slow speed  
Ans: [b]

### 🌀 ANALOGIES

You will find word analogies, or verbal analogies, used in standardized tests and sometimes in job interviews where you must show the relationship between two objects or concepts using logic and reasoning. These analogies are set up in a standard format. For example:

Tree : Leaf :: Flower : Petal

This analogy is read aloud as:

Tree is to leaf as flower is to petal.

This analogy highlights the relationship between the whole (a tree and a flower) and its parts (a leaf and a petal). On tests of logic, one portion of the analogy is left blank and students are left to choose an answer that makes sense to complete the comparison. For example:

Dog : Puppy :: Cat : \_\_\_\_\_

To solve the analogy, you must first determine the relationship between dog and puppy. Once you realize that a puppy is a baby dog, you can find the corresponding relationship for a cat. A baby cat is a kitten, so the completed analogy is

Dog : Puppy :: Cat : Kitten

Though there is no limit to the possibilities when it comes to word analogies, here are some examples to familiarize yourself with the concept:

- hammer : nail :: comb : hair
- white : black :: up : down
- mansion : shack :: yacht : dinghy
- short : light :: long : heavy
- bees : hive :: bears : den
- speak : sing :: walk : dance
- chef : food :: sculptor : stone
- like : love :: dislike : hate

### EXERCISE

**Directions for Q1 to Q5:** A good way to figure out the relationship in a given question is to make up a sentence that describes the relationship between the first two words. Then, try to use the same sentence to find out which of the answer choices completes the same relationship with the third word.

1. Odometer : Mileage :: Compass : \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Speed (b) Hiking (c) Needle (d) Direction  
Ans: [d]

An odometer is an instrument used to measure mileage. A compass is an instrument used to determine direction. Choices a, b, and c are incorrect because none is an instrument.

2. Cup : Coffee :: Bowl : \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Dish (b) Soup (c) Spoon (d) Food

Ans: [b]

Coffee goes into a cup and soup goes into a bowl. Choices a and c are incorrect because they are other utensils. The answer is not choice d because the word food is too general.

3. Reptile : Lizard :: Flower : \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Petal (b) Stem (c) Daisy (d) Alligator

Ans: [c]

A lizard is a type of reptile; a daisy is a type of flower. Choices a and b are incorrect because a petal and a stem are parts of a flower, not types of flowers. (Choice d) is incorrect because an alligator is another type of reptile, not a type of flower.

4. Careful : Cautious :: Boastful : \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Arrogant (b) Humble (c) Joyful (d) Suspicious

Ans: [a]

Careful and cautious are synonyms (they mean the same thing). Boastful and arrogant are also synonyms. The answer is not (choice b) because humble means the opposite of boastful. The answer is not choice c or d because neither means the same as boastful.

5. Exercise : Gym :: Eating : \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) Food (b) Dieting (c) Fitness (d) Restaurant

Ans: [d]

A gym is a place where people exercise. A restaurant is a place where people eat. Food (choice a) is not the answer because it is something people eat, not a place or location where they eat. The answer is not choice b or c because neither represents a place where people eat.

**Directions for Q6 to Q11:** The words in the bottom row are related in the same way as the words in the top row. For each item, find the word that completes the bottom row of words.

6. Candle Lamp Floodlight  
Hut Cottage ?  
(a) Tent (b) City (c) Dwelling (d) House

Ans: [d]

Above the line, the relationship shows a progression of sources of light. The relationship below the line shows a progression of types of housing, from smallest to largest. (Choice a) is incorrect because a tent is smaller than a house. Choices b and c are wrong because they are not part of the progression.

7. Apples Fruit Supermarket  
Novel Book ?  
(a) Bookstore (b) Magazine (c) Vegetable (d) Shopping

Ans: [a]

The relationship above the line is as follows; apples are a kind of fruit; fruit is sold in a supermarket. Below the line, the relationship is: a novel is a kind of book; books are sold in a bookstore.

8. Tadpole Frog Amphibian  
Lamb Sheep ?  
(a) Animal (b) Wool (c) Farm (d) Mammal

Ans: [d]

The tadpole is a young frog; frogs are amphibians. The lamb is a young sheep; sheep are mammals. Animal (choice a) is incorrect because it is too large a grouping: Animals include insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Choices b and c are incorrect because they are not part of the progression.

9. Walk Skip Run  
Toss Pitch ?  
(a) Swerve (b) Hurl (c) Jump (d) Dance  
Ans: [b]

Walk, skip, and run represent a continuum of movement: Skipping is faster than walking; running is faster than skipping. Below the line, the continuum is about throwing: Pitch is faster than toss; hurl is faster than pitch.

10. Meal Banquet Feast  
Shelter Palace ?  
(a) Mansion (b) Hallway (c) Protection (d) Haven  
Ans: [a]

A banquet and a feast are both large meals; a palace and a mansion are both large places of shelter.

11. Fence Wall Boundary  
Path Alley ?  
(a) Ramp (b) Passageway (c) Airfield (d) Pedestrian  
Ans: [b]

A fence and a wall mark a boundary. A path and an alley mark a passageway.

**Directions for Q12 to Q16:** Every one of the following questions consists of a related pair of words, followed by five pairs of words. Choose the pair that best represents a similar relationship to the one expressed in the original pair of words.

12. Binding : Book :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Criminal : Gang (b) Display : Museum (c) Artist : Carpenter  
(d) Nail : Hammer (e) Frame : Picture  
Ans: [e]

A binding surrounds a book; a frame surrounds a picture.

13. Petal : Flower :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Salt : Pepper (b) Tire : Bicycle (c) Base : Ball  
(d) Sandals : Shoes (e) Puppy : Dog  
Ans: [b]

A petal is a part of a flower; a tire is a part of a bicycle.

14. Rain : Drizzle :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Swim : Dive (b) Hop : Shuffle (c) Juggle : Bounce  
(d) Walk : Run (e) Run : Jog  
Ans: [e]

To drizzle is to rain slowly; to jog is to run slowly.

15. Fish : Shoal :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_  
(a) Wolf : Pack (b) Elephant : Jungle (c) Beagle : Clan  
(d) Herd : Peacock (e) Cow : Farm  
Ans: [a]

A group of fish is a shoal; a group of wolves is a pack.

16. Waitress : Restaurant :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Doctor : Diagnosis (b) Actor : Role (c) Driver : Truck  
(d) Teacher : School (e) Author : Book

Ans: [d]

A waitress works in a restaurant; a teacher works in a school.

**Directions for Q17 to Q23:** Choose the pair that best represents a similar relationship to the one expressed in the original pair of words.

17. Cobbler : Shoe :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Jockey : Horse (b) Contractor : Building (c) Mason : Stone  
(d) Cowboy : Boot (e) Potter : Paint

Ans: [b]

A cobbler makes and repairs shoes; a contractor builds and repairs buildings.

18. Dominance : Hegemony :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Romance : Sympathy (b) Furtherance : Melancholy  
(c) Independence : Autonomy (d) Tolerance : Philanthropy  
(e) Recompense : Hilarity

Ans: [c]

Hegemony means dominance; autonomy means independence.

19. Sound : Cacophony :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Taste : Style (b) Touch : Massage (c) Smell : Stench  
(d) Sight : Panorama (e) Speech : Oration

Ans: [c]

A cacophony is an unpleasant sound; a stench is an unpleasant smell.

20. Deltoid : Muscle :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Radius : Bone (b) Brain : Nerve (c) Tissue : Organ  
(d) Blood : Vein (e) Scalpel : Incision

Ans: [a]

The deltoid is a muscle; the radius is a bone.

21. Jaundice : Liver :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Rash : Skin (b) Dialysis : Kidney (c) Smog : Lung  
(d) Valentine : Heart (e) Imagination : Brain

Ans: [a]

Jaundice is an indication of a liver problem; rash is an indication of a skin problem.

22. Conviction : Incarceration :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_
- (a) Reduction : Diminution (b) Induction : Amelioration  
(c) Radicalization : Estimation (d) Marginalization : Intimidation  
(e) Proliferation : Alliteration

Ans: [a]

A conviction results in incarceration; a reduction results in diminution.

23. Dependable : Capricious :: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Fallible : Cantankerous

(b) Erasable : Obtuse

(c) Malleable : Limpid

(d) Capable : Inept

(e) Incurable : Guilty

Ans: [d]

Dependable and capricious are antonyms; capable and inept are antonyms.

## ☞ SENTENCE COMPLETION

### 1. WORD FITTING

Before You Look At The Answer-Choices, Think Of A Word That "Fits" The Sentence.

Example:

Crestfallen by having done poorly on the GRE, Susan began to question her abilities. Her self-confidence was \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) appeared

(b) destroyed

(c) placated

(d) elevated

(e) sustained

If somebody is crestfallen (despairing) and has begun to question herself, then her self-confidence would be destroyed. Hence, the **answer is (b)**.

### 2. TRANSITIONAL WORDS

Be alert to transitional words. Transitional words tell you what is coming up. They indicate that the author is now going to draw a contrast with something stated previously, or support something stated previously.

#### I. CONTRAST INDICATORS

To contrast two things is to point out how they differ. In this type of sentence completion questions, we look for a word that has the opposite meaning (an antonym) of some key word or phrase in the sentence.

Following are some of the most common contrast indicators:

*But*

*Yet*

*Despite*

*Although*

*However*

*Nevertheless*

Example:

Although the warring parties had settled a number of disputes, past experience made them ..... to express optimism that the talks would be a success.

(a) rash

(b) ambivalent

(c) scornful

(d) overjoyed

(e) reticent

Although" sets up a contrast between what has occurred--success on some issues--and what can be expected to occur--success for the whole talks. Hence, the parties are reluctant to express optimism. The common word "reluctant" is not offered as an answer-choice, but a synonym--*reticent*--is. The **answer is (e)**.

#### II. SUPPORT INDICATORS

Supporting words support or further explain what has already been said. These words often introduce synonyms for words elsewhere in the sentence.



Following are some common supporting words:

*And*

*Also*

*Furthermore*

*Likewise*

*In Addition*

*For*

Example:

Davis is an opprobrious and ..... speaker, equally caustic towards friend or foe--a true curmudgeon.

- (a) lofty                      (b) vituperative                      (c) unstinting                      (d) retiring                      (e) laudatory

"And" in the sentence indicates that the missing adjective is similar in meaning to "opprobrious," which is very negative. Now, vituperative--*the only negative word*--means "abusive." Hence, **the answer is (b).**

### III. CAUSE AND EFFECT INDICATORS

These words indicate that one thing causes another to occur.

Some of the most common cause and effect indicators are

*Because*

*For*

*Thus*

*Hence*

*Therefore*

*If, Then.*

Example:

Because the House has the votes to override a presidential veto, the President has no choice but to .....

- (a) object                      (b) abdicate                      (c) abstain                      (d) capitulate                      (e) compromise

Since the House has the votes to pass the bill or motion, the President would be wise to compromise and make the best of the situation. **The answer is (e).**

### 3. APPPOSITION

This rather advanced grammatical structure is very common on the GRE. (Don't confuse "apposition" with "opposition": they have opposite meanings.)

Words or phrases in apposition are placed next to each other, and the second word or phrase defines, clarifies, or gives evidence to the first word or phrase.

The second word or phrase will be set off from the first by a comma, semicolon, hyphen, or parentheses.

**Note:** If a comma is not followed by a linking word--*such as and, for, yet*--then the following phrase is probably appositional.

Identifying an appositional structure, can greatly simplify a sentence completion problem since the appositional word, phrase, or clause will define the missing word.



Example:

His novels are ..... ; he uses a long circumlocution when a direct coupling of a simple subject and verb would be best.

- (a) prolix (b) pedestrian (c) succinct (d) vapid (e) risque

The sentence has no linking words (such as because, although, etc.). Hence, the phrase following the semicolon is in apposition to the missing word--it defines or further clarifies the missing word. Now, writing filled with circumlocutions is aptly described as prolix. **The answer is (a).**

## 4. PUNCTUATION

Whenever the punctuation "," (comma) appears, followed by a blank in between two sentences, then it means that the synonym of the phrase/word before "," is the meaning of the blank. In simple words, when you find ',' followed by a blank then find the synonym of the word before ',' and check the options to match the synonym of the word.

In the same way, when you find ":" (colon) or ";" (semi-colon) in the sentence, they will indicate that the idea coming up is merely an explanation of the earlier idea. So, simply find the synonym of the word/phrase before the punctuation and fill in the blank with the synonym from the options given.

## 5. POSITIVE/NEGATIVE FLOW

When you read the sentence, you have to look out for **adjectives/adverbs** which tell you the idea of the sentence. After finding these adjectives/adverbs, you need to find out if the idea of the sentence is positive/negative. All the negative ideas may be a "bad word/bad phrase" or any term which has no/none/not... in it.

You need to just go on marking the words with +/- and keep on doing till the end of the sentence. Then you need to use the punctuations/conjunctions clue which would break the sentence into 2/3 parts. After that you need to compare the +/- signs on both sides and enter the desired sign in the blank. In simple words, if the flow of the first part of the sentence is positive and the second part is negative, then the blank must be negative to even the flow of the sentence. This would solve the sentence completion question without even understanding the question.

Example:

Because he did not want to appear\_\_\_\_, the junior executive refused to dispute the board's decision, in spite of his belief that the decision would impair employee morale.

- (a) contentious (b) indecisive (c) solicitous (d) overzealous (e) steadfast

(c) and (e) are gone because they're positive words. (b) doesn't work because the clue is "refused to dispute." That doesn't work with indecisive. For the same reason, (d) doesn't work either. So the **best answer is option (a).**

## 6. PROCESS OF ELIMINATION (POE)

You can easily eliminate all the options that are definitely wrong or are eliminated through the positive/negative flow. Suppose if you have a blank in the sentence for which the answer is positive, then you can eliminate all the options which are negative. In this way you can eliminate options and have very less options remaining. The probability of you getting right answer from 2 options is much higher than you getting right from 5 options.

## EXERCISE

1. Athens is remembered by historians as a peaceful society known for its philosophers and scientists, while its neighbor, Sparta, is remembered for its \_\_\_\_ people and focus.

- (a) chivalrous (b) contentious (c) controversial (d) inflammatory (e) martial

Ans: [e]

2. The storm \_\_\_\_ our efforts to hold a company picnic in the park last weekend, because it was impossible to stay outdoors in such a \_\_\_\_.
- (a) destroyed, squalor (b) bolstered, torrent (c) thwarted, downpour  
(d) increased ... monsoon (e) ruined ... tragedy
- Ans: [c]
3. The two rich cousins were very similar to each other in their \_\_\_\_ lifestyles: both spent money freely and ostentatiously displayed the \_\_\_\_ of their homes to their less wealthy neighbors.
- (a) lavish ... opulence (b) frugal ... misery (c) stingy ... sumptuousness  
(d) austere ... grandeur (e) luxurious ... deficiency
- Ans: [a]
4. Tim was such a worthless and lazy contributor to the group that his inclusion in it served as \_\_\_\_, rather than an advantage, to the group's progress.
- (a) a hindrance (b) a positive (c) an onus (d) a cancer (e) a boon
- Ans: [a]
5. Many critics worry that technological devices are becoming \_\_\_\_ too soon these days; they contend that humans are becoming too obsessed with progress and that the proliferation of outdated and outmoded technology underscores this obsession.
- (a) empowered (b) electronic (c) obsolete (d) updated (e) reconfigured
- Ans: [c]
6. Far from being harmful as was thought to be the case, running on bare feet is \_\_\_\_ at worst and beneficial at best.
- (a) innocuous (b) detrimental (c) profitable (d) ambivalent (e) injurious
- Ans: [a]
7. Nearly every ancient culture had a myth involving a trickster character, a \_\_\_\_ individual who creates devilry either through cunningness or foolishness.
- (a) mischievous (b) venerable (c) stoic (d) portly (e) stern
- Ans: [a]
8. The hall of fame committee was nearly unanimous in \_\_\_\_ the star athlete; only one voter \_\_\_\_ and did not support the athlete's induction.
- (a) dismissing ... saluted (b) praising ... duped (c) lauding ... dissented  
(d) reprimanding ... abstained (e) ruing ... refrained
- Ans: [c]
9. The repair shop attempted to \_\_\_\_ the damaged automobile but ultimately decided it was irreparable.
- (a) sabotage (b) sap (c) salvage (d) retain (e) economize
- Ans: [c]
10. Ludwig van Beethoven was a musical \_\_\_\_, playing his first professional concert at only seven years old.
- (a) hack (b) phenomenon (c) spectacle (d) fluke (e) prodigy
- Ans: [e]
11. Stephen's parents encourage him to pursue a \_\_\_\_ career in medicine or law; they want to see him become rich and successful.
- (a) stressful (b) worthwhile (c) rewarding (d) lucrative (e) prestigious
- Ans: [d]

12. Although Dina is \_\_\_\_ about the governor's reelection campaign, Carla regards it with \_\_\_\_.
- (a) passionate ... indifference (b) reckless ... callousness  
(c) upset ... carelessness (d) exuberant ... enthusiasm  
(e) exceptional ... zeal  
Ans: [a]
13. Students who are interested in foreign languages are encouraged to \_\_\_\_ their studies by adding courses in linguistics to their schedules.
- (a) accelerate (b) condense (c) supplement (d) prolong (e) duplicate  
Ans: [b]
14. The novelist had \_\_\_\_ manner that could irk anyone; after all, no one likes \_\_\_\_.
- (a) a meek ... a genius (b) a pompous ... an egotist  
(c) a standoffish ... a bore (d) an arrogant ... an optimist  
(e) an assertive ... a braggart  
Ans: [b]
15. Known for her patience and kindness, Nurse Steele is one of the most \_\_\_\_ employees in the entire hospital.
- (a) boorish (b) benign (c) genial (d) irritable (e) contrary  
Ans: [c]
16. Many Horatio Alger stories feature \_\_\_\_ young man who is able to achieve the American Dream because of his own hard work and merit.
- (a) a fortunate (b) an insolent (c) a ruthless (d) a diligent (e) a negligent  
Ans: [d]
17. Six months of chemotherapy and radiation have left my cancer-stricken aunt looking unhealthy and \_\_\_\_.
- (a) gaunt (b) brawny (c) vigorous (d) svelte (e) trim  
Ans: [a]
18. Though Peter did not appear to be particularly \_\_\_\_, he was easily the \_\_\_\_ player on the team.
- (a) brawny ... strongest (b) athletic ... frailest (c) husky ... bravest  
(d) delicate ... densest (e) intelligent ... fastest  
Ans: [a]
19. In order to \_\_\_\_ discussion about the novel, the teacher asked his students a series of questions about its themes.
- (a) advocate (b) hasten (c) aggravate (d) facilitate (e) perplex  
Ans: [d]
20. Though the attorney did not directly state that the witness was a liar, the jury was able to \_\_\_\_ that the witness was not \_\_\_\_.
- (a) understand ... valuable (b) imagine ... scandalous (c) infer ... trustworthy  
(d) deduce ... likeable (e) impose ... honest  
Ans: [c]
21. The helicopter \_\_\_\_ over the scene of the accident and lingered at a low altitude.
- (a) soared (b) hovered (c) excelled (d) collided (e) stormed  
Ans: [b]

22. Jacob's mother and father both had to \_\_\_\_ him from his sleep because he had slept through his alarm.  
(a) fluctuate                      (b) deliver                      (c) lull                      (d) tremble                      (e) rouse  
Ans: [e]
23. In an effort to make sure that no one found the evidence of his crime, Dean attempted to \_\_\_\_ it from investigators.  
(a) condemn                      (b) consecrate                      (c) conceal                      (d) convict                      (e) contemplate  
Ans: [c]
24. The bombing of Pearl Harbor was \_\_\_\_ act of hostility, and the United States reacted to the blatant act with a declaration of war on Japan.  
(a) a clandestine                      (b) an overt                      (c) an inconspicuous                      (d) an ambiguous                      (e) a petty  
Ans: [b]
25. Allen Ginsberg's poetry offers \_\_\_\_ insight into the counterculture of the 1950s; his writings give readers a deep understanding of the Beat movement.  
(a) profound                      (b) scholarly                      (c) cryptic                      (d) superficial                      (e) shallow  
Ans: [a]

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