

# 3

## Antonyms



### WHAT DOES ANTONYM MEAN?

Words that have a contrast or opposite meaning to a word are called their antonyms. Antonym has been a more recent addition to the English language in comparison with synonyms.

### What is the importance of antonyms?

Similar to the importance of synonyms, learning antonyms help us expand our vocabulary. They also help us understand any text better. Questions based on 'antonyms' are asked in GATE and other engineering entrance exams.

Following are some important antonyms

WORD	MEANING	ANTONYMS
<b>Abandon</b>	To leave someone or something	Keep
<b>Abbreviate</b>	To shorten something	Lengthen, increase, expand
<b>Ability</b>	The skill to do something	Inability, incompetence
<b>Able</b>	Having the skill to do something	Incapable, incompetent
<b>Abundant</b>	Being enough in amount or number	Insufficient, scarce, scanty
<b>Accurate</b>	The quality of being right	Inaccurate, wrong
<b>Achieve</b>	To get something	Fail
<b>Active</b>	Having energy	Sluggish, idle, lethargic
<b>Adamant</b>	Unwilling to change an opinion	Yielding, manoeuvrable
<b>Add</b>	To increase	Subtract
<b>Adequate</b>	Enough for the need	Sparse, insufficient, inadequate
<b>Adjourn</b>	To stop something for some time	Recommence, continue
<b>Advocate</b>	To show support for something	Oppose
<b>Afraid</b>	To be apprehensive of something	Brave, courageous
<b>Aggressive</b>	Showing angry tendencies	Peaceful, passive
<b>Aid</b>	To help someone or something	Hinder
<b>Amateur</b>	To be new at something	Professional
<b>Ambitious</b>	To be aspiring about something	Indifferent, lazy, indolent
<b>Antagonise</b>	To anger someone	Tranquillise, soothe



WORD	MEANING	ANTONYMS
<b>Apparent</b>	Clear from what is seen	Obscure, subtle, hidden
<b>Approve</b>	To ratify something	Disapprove, censure
<b>Arrive</b>	To reach somewhere	Leave, depart
<b>Arrogant</b>	To think high about oneself	Modest, humble
<b>Artificial</b>	Not natural	Real, authentic, unnatural
<b>Beautiful</b>	Something or someone that looks good	Ugly
<b>Beginning</b>	The start of something	Finish
<b>Believe</b>	To accept something or someone without doubt	Distrust
<b>Below</b>	Under something	Above
<b>Beneficial</b>	Helpful in something	Harmful, adverse
<b>Brave</b>	Courageous	Cowardly, timid
<b>Busy</b>	Occupied with something	Idle, inactive
<b>Calm</b>	Quiet and peaceful	Excited, turbulent
<b>Careful</b>	Marked by watchfulness	Careless, reckless
<b>Cease</b>	To stop	Continue, recommence
<b>Charming</b>	Delightful, attractive	Obnoxious, gross, vulgar
<b>Chubby</b>	Thick, plump	Thin, skinny
<b>Clarify</b>	To explain something	Confuse
<b>Coarse</b>	Marked by bumpiness	Fine, smooth
<b>Colossal</b>	Very big or major	Tiny, insignificant, trivial
<b>Comical</b>	Funny and inducing laughter	Tragic, sorrowful
<b>Comprehend</b>	Understand properly	Confuse, misinterpret
<b>Condense</b>	To compress something	Expand, enlarge
<b>Confess</b>	To admit something	Deny



WORD	MEANING	ANTONYMS
<b>Dangerous</b>	Not safe	Safe
<b>Daring</b>	Bold, brave	Cautious
<b>Dawn</b>	Start of the day	Evening
<b>Dead</b>	Without life	Alive, active
<b>Deduct</b>	Remove something	Add
<b>Defend</b>	Protect something	Attack, assault
<b>Defy</b>	To resist	Obey, comply
<b>Delicate</b>	Very weak	Sturdy
<b>Denounce</b>	Blame something	Commend
<b>Dense</b>	Very thick	Sparse, empty
<b>Depart</b>	Leave a place	Arrive
<b>Deposit</b>	To store	Withdraw
<b>Desolate</b>	Barren	Dense, verdant
<b>Despise</b>	Hate someone/something	Love
<b>Eccentric</b>	Not usual or common	Normal
<b>Ecstasy</b>	The feeling of happiness	Sadness, depression
<b>Encourage</b>	To support something	Discourage
<b>Enemy</b>	One's ill-wisher, contender	Ally, friend
<b>Enjoy</b>	To like something	Dislike, hate
<b>Enlarge</b>	To increase the size of something	Reduce, shrink
<b>Enormous</b>	Very big in size	Tiny, microscopic
<b>Enough</b>	Sufficient in number or amount	Insufficient
<b>Fancy</b>	Elaborate in style	Simple, plain
<b>Fantastic</b>	Amazing	Ordinary, usual
<b>Fast</b>	Quick	Slow



WORD	MEANING	ANTONYMS
<b>Feasible</b>	Possible to do	Impossible
<b>Feeble</b>	Weak	Strong
<b>Ferocious</b>	Brutal	Tame, gentle
<b>Gallant</b>	Heroic, brave	Coward
<b>Gather</b>	Collect some things or people	Scatter, disperse
<b>Gaudy</b>	Showy	Tasteful, refined
<b>Gaunt</b>	Thin	Overweight, plump
<b>Generous</b>	Giving	Selfish, stingy
<b>Gentle</b>	Tender	Rough, harsh
<b>Help</b>	Aid	Hinder, thwart
<b>High</b>	Elevated	Low
<b>Hold</b>	Grasp something	Release, discharge
<b>Honest</b>	Without any lies or pretences	Untruthful, insincere
<b>Hospitable</b>	Welcoming	Rude, unfriendly
<b>Hostile</b>	Angry and defensive in character	Friendly, cordial
<b>Imperative</b>	Required to be done	Unnecessary, optional
<b>Imperfect</b>	With flaws	Perfect, flawless
<b>Impetuous</b>	Likely to be rash and careless	Restrained, careful
<b>Important</b>	Meaningful	Unimportant, meaningless
<b>Independent</b>	Dependent on oneself	Dependent, unsure
<b>Inferior</b>	Of a lesser standard	Superior
<b>Infuriate</b>	To anger	Soothe, calm
<b>Ingenious</b>	Clever	Unoriginal, dull
<b>Innocent</b>	Without blame	Guilty
<b>Least</b>	The minimum	Most, maximum



WORD	MEANING	ANTONYMS
<b>Legible</b>	Something that can be read	Illegible, unreadable
<b>Lenient</b>	Merciful, not harsh	Harsh, strict
<b>Listless</b>	Without any energy	Active, energetic
<b>Logical</b>	Something that can be rationally understood, rational	Illogical, unreasonable
<b>Mediocre</b>	Moderate in character	Outstanding
<b>Mend</b>	To fix something	Break
<b>Migrant</b>	Something or someone who travels	Stationary, immovable
<b>Militant</b>	Aggressive	Peaceful
<b>Minor</b>	Lesser in standard	Major
<b>Mirth</b>	Fun, enjoyment	Gloom, sadness
<b>Mischievous</b>	Naughty	Well-behaved, angelic
<b>Nonchalant</b>	Carefree, unconcerned	Concerned, apprehensive
<b>Normal</b>	Ordinary	Abnormal, unusual
<b>Numerous</b>	Several	Few, scanty
<b>Opponent</b>	Enemy, rival, competitor	Ally, friend
<b>Optimistic</b>	Positive	Pessimistic
<b>Optional</b>	Not mandatory	Required
<b>Permanent</b>	Lasting, fixed, perennial	Temporary, changing
<b>Perpetual</b>	Unending	Transient, fleeting
<b>Persuade</b>	Convince	Dissuade, deter
<b>Plausible</b>	Believable	Unbelievable
<b>Plentiful</b>	Enough, adequate	Scarce, insufficient
<b>Rational</b>	Logical	Irrational, crazy
<b>Ravage</b>	To ruin something	Restore, revitalise

WORD	MEANING	ANTONYMS
<b>Raze</b>	To destroy	Build, construct
<b>Recreation</b>	Something that is done for pleasure	Work, labour
<b>Reduce</b>	To lessen the amount or quantity	Increase, enlarge, amplify
<b>Serious</b>	Of grave nature	Flighty, fickle
<b>Shrewd</b>	Of clever character	Unthinking, careless
<b>Shy</b>	Timid in nature	Bold, aggressive
<b>Sick</b>	Unhealthy, ill, unwell	Well, healthy
<b>Trivial</b>	Insignificant	Important, crucial
<b>Turbulent</b>	Violent	Calm, peaceful
<b>Turmoil</b>	Commotion	Quiet, tranquillity
<b>Wrong</b>	Not correct	Correct, right
<b>Yield</b>	To produce	Keep, retain
<b>Zenith</b>	The peak of something	Bottom, base

### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Write the antonyms of the given words. (There can be more than one antonym to a single word.)

1. Answer	
2. Admit	
3. Bravery	
4. Captivity	
5. Dismal	
6. Generous	
7. Healthy	
8. Knowledge	
9. Rapid	



<b>10.</b> Sorrow	
<b>11.</b> Possible	
<b>12.</b> Interesting	
<b>13.</b> Horizontal	
<b>14.</b> Giant	
<b>15.</b> Strong	
<b>16.</b> Scatter	
<b>17.</b> End	
<b>18.</b> Cunning	
<b>19.</b> Beautiful	
<b>20.</b> Artificial	

## SOLUTIONS

- 1.** Question/query
- 2.** Deny/oust
- 3.** Cowardice/timidity
- 4.** Freedom
- 5.** Cheerful/luminous
- 6.** Greedy/miserly
- 7.** Unhealthy/ill
- 8.** Ignorance/impotence
- 9.** Slow/sluggish/languishing
- 10.** Joy/cheer
- 11.** Impossible/unlikely
- 12.** Dull/uninteresting
- 13.** Vertical
- 14.** Dwarf/pygmy
- 15.** Weak/idle/frail
- 16.** Gather/collect
- 17.** Beginning/start/origin
- 18.** Ignorant/simple
- 19.** Ugly/hideous/monstrous
- 20.** Natural/real/genuine

