UNIT 1

VOCABULARY BUILDING

Course Objective: To improve reading and writing proficiency of students in English with an

emphasis on vocabulary development.

Course Outcome: Demonstrate word knowledge and its usage in appropriate contexts.

Topic: Introduction to affixes and base words, prefixes and suffixes

Model Questions

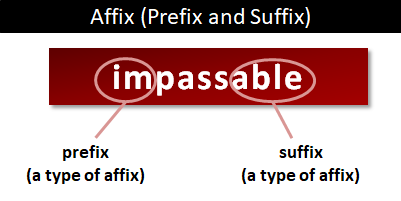
1. What are affixes? Write two examples.
2. What are prefixes? Write two examples.
3. What are suffixes? Write two examples.
4. Write the meaning of the given roots and give two examples.
5. Write the meaning of the given prefixes.
6. Change the word form of the given words by adding an appropriate suffix.
7. Change the given noun forms into verb forms.
8. Change the given noun forms into adjective forms.

Introduction to affixes (Prefixes & Suffixes) and base words

In English grammar, many words can be broken into commonly shared components. Learning these basic components will help you decipher unfamiliar vocabulary—learning only thirty key word components can help you decode over 10,000 words!

What are affixes?

An affix is a letter or group of letters added to the root of a word to change its meaning. *Roots* carry the basic meaning, *prefixes* come before roots and alter their meaning, and *suffixes* come after roots and alter either their meaning or their part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb). Because English is related to French, German, Latin, and Greek, many of these components will look familiar to students of those languages.



**Easy Examples of Affixes**

Here are some examples of affixes:

* Incapable (The affix is the prefix *in*.)
* Ex-president (The affix is the prefix *ex-*.)
* Laughing (The affix is the suffix *-ing*.)

**Why should you care about Affixes?**

There are five good reasons to know about affixes.

**(Reason 1) Using an affix to reduce the word count in your sentence**

A word's meaning is changed when an affix is added. Sometimes, you can exploit this to reduce your word count by one or two words and to create a more flowing text.

* Not aware > unaware
* Not sure > unsure
* Check again > recheck
* to bake cakes > baking cakes
* a comparison of the data shows > comparing the data shows

In the two examples above, the suffix *-ing* has been used to create a gerund (a type of noun that can take an object). Using gerunds is a great way of creating more succinct, natural-sounding sentences.

**(Reason 2) Breaking down long words to help with spelling**

The word ***antidisestablishmentarianism***(a 19th-century political position that sought the removal of the Anglican Church's status as the state church of England, Ireland and Wales) is best known not for what it represents but for its length (28 letters and 12 syllables). It was not uncommon for school children in the 80s to ask each other to spell *antidisestablishmentarianism*, due to its use in the comedy series **"The Young Ones."** This was an impossible task, surely? Well, no. If you break it down into affixes, it's pretty simple.

* **Anti-dis-establ-ish-ment-arian-ism** (This is well-used technique to help with spelling.)

**(Reason 3) Breaking down long words to help with decoding their meaning**

Studying affixes in a word (especially if you know its root) can help with understanding its meaning.

* ***disrespectfully***breaks down to ***dis-respect-ful-ly***

**(Dissecting *disrespectfully* gets you to something like "not-respect-full of-adverb," which would lead to**

**something like "done in a manner that is full of no respect." That's a pretty good clue as its meaning.)**

Not useful? Well, try understanding these without dissecting them:

* **lonelinesslessness**

(With three suffixes, this is the concept of no loneliness.)

* **semihemidemisemiquaver**

(With four prefixes, this is a hundred twenty-eighth note.)

Looking at affixes to ascertain a word's meaning is particularly useful for non-native speakers. In truth, native speakers do it too, but we do it so quickly, we often don't realise we're doing it.

**(Reason 4) Knowing whether to use a hyphen with a prefix**

The guidance governing whether to use a hyphen with a prefix is quite complicated, but, luckily, this is one of those times when you're safe to fly by the seat of your pants. This is a good rule of thumb: Don't use a hyphen after prefix, but if it looks too unwieldy, use one.

**(Reason 5) Knowing when to capitalize a prefix**

A prefix is not written with a capital letter unless it starts the sentence or is an integral part of a proper noun.

* Ex-President Smith will meet ex-President Jones later. https://www.grammar-monster.com/images/tick.png

(The first prefix (*Ex-*) starts the sentence, so the capital letter is correct.)

* Please show me the Baxter Inter-Department Programme. https://www.grammar-monster.com/images/tick.png

(The prefix *Inter-* is part of the proper noun, so the capital letter is correct.)

* Will you attend this year's anti-Nazi rally? https://www.grammar-monster.com/images/tick.png

(The prefix *anti-* is not part of the proper noun, so the lowercase letter is correct.)

**Common Word Roots**

*ag, act* do activity, interaction, agent

*ambul* walk, move ambulance, ambulatory, amble

*ami, amo* love amiable, amorous, amity

*anim* mind, soul, spirit animate, unanimous, magnanimity

*anthro* human anthropology, misanthrope, philanthropy

*apt* skill aptitude, adapt

*arch* chief, first archetype, archbishop, archeology, monarch

*aud, audit* hear audible, auditorium, audience

*auto* self autocrat, autography, autobiography

*belli* war belligerent, rebellious, bellicose

*ben* good benefactor, beneficial, benevolence

*biblio* book bibliography, bibliophile, Bible

*bio* life biography, biology, biosphere

*carn* flesh, meat carnivore, carnal, incarnate

*ced, ceed, cess* yield, go recede, process, exceed, accessible

*chron* time chronic, chronology, synchronize, anachronism

*cid, cis* cut, kill incision, homicide, insecticide

*civi* citizen civilization, civilian, civil

*cogn* know cognizant, recognize, incognito

*corp* body corporation, corporeal, corpse

*cred* believe credence, credulous, incredible

*dem* people democracy, demographic, demagogue

*dic, dict* speak dictate, contradict, prediction, verdict

*domin* master dominant, domain, domineering

*esth/aesth* feeling, beauty esthetician, kinesthesia, aesthetic

*err* wander error, erratic, errand

*eu* good, beautiful eulogize, euphoria, euphemism

*fact/fict* make, do artifact, factory, fiction

*fall, fals* deceive fallacious, infallible, falsify

*fid* faith fidelity, confide, confidence

*grad, gress* go, step digress, progress, gradual

*graph, gram* writing grammar, telegram, graphite

*gyn* woman misogyny, gynecology

*juven* young rejuvenate, juvenile

*kine/cine* motion kinetics, telekinesis, cinema

*log* word, study logic, biology, monologue

*loqu, locut* talk soliloquy, loquacious, elocution

*luc* light elucidate, lucid, translucent

*magn* great magnify, magnate, magnanimous

*mal* bad malevolent, malediction, malicious

*miss, mit* send emit, transmit, dismiss, missile

*mori, mort* die mortuary, moribund, immortal

*morph* shape, form amorphous, metamorphosis, anthropomorphic

*nat* born innate, natal, nativity

*nom* name misnomer, nominal, cognomen

*nov* new novice, innovate, renovate, novelty

*omni* all omniscient, omnipotent, omnivorous

*pac, pas, pax* peace pacify, pacific, pacifist

*path, pass* disease, feeling pathology, sympathetic, apathy, antipathy

*phil* love philanthropist, philosophy, philanderer

*port* carry portable, porter, transport, export

*poten* able, powerful potential, omnipotent, potentate, impotent

*psych* mind psyche, psychology, psychosis, psychopath

*reg, rect* rule regicide, regime, regent, insurrection

*sacr, secr* holy sacred, sacrilegious, sacrament, consecrate

*sci* know science, omniscient, conscious

*scribe, script* write describe, script, circumscribe

*somn* sleep insomnia, somnolent, somnambulist

*spec, spic* see, look spectators, spectacles, retrospect

*tang, tact, ting* touch tactile, tangent, contact, contingent

*terr* land terrain, terrestrial, subterranean

*urb* city urban, urbane, suburban

*vac* empty vacation, vacuous, evacuate, vacant

*ver* truth veracity, verify, veracious

*verb* word verbose, verbatim, proverb

*viv, vit* alive revival, vivacious, vitality

*voc, vok* to call vocation, advocate, invoke, equivocate

# Common Prefixes

*ab, abs* from, away absent, aversion, abduct, abjure

*ac, ad* to, near admit, accord, accessible

*ambi, amphi* both ambidextrous, ambiguous, ambivalent

*an, a* without anarchy, anemia, amoral

*ante* before antecedent, antechamber, antediluvian

*anti* against antibody, antipathy, antisocial

*circum* around circumnavigate, circumspect, circumscribe

*co, col, com, con* with, together coauthor, collaborate, composition, commerce

*contra, contro* against contradict, contravene, controversy

*de* down, away debase, decelerate, decadence, decant

*di, dif, dis* not, apart digress, discord, differ, disparity

*dia* through, across diagonal, diameter, dialogue

*dys* abnormal, bad dysfunction, dyslexia, dystopia

*e, ex, extra, extro* out, beyond expel, excavate, eject, extrovert

*em, en, endo* inside, within enclose, endothermic, envision

*in, il, im, ir* (1) not inefficient, inarticulate, illegible, irrepressible

*in, il, im, ir* (2) in, upon invite, incite, impression, illuminate

*inter* between, among intervene, international, interjection, intercept

*intra* within intramural, introvert, intravenous

*iso* equal isobar, isometric, isothermal

*mis* bad, hatred misdemeanor, mischance, misanthrope

*mono* one monarchy, monologue, monotheism

*non* not, without noncommittal, nonentity, nondescript

*ob, oc, of, op* against obtrude, obscure, offend, opponent

*pan* all, every panacea, panorama, pandemic

*peri* around, near perimeter, periphery, periphrastic

*poly* many polygamist, polyglot, polychrome, polyglot

*post* after postpone, posterity, postscript, posthumous

*pre* before preamble, prefix, premonition, prediction

*pro* forward, for, before propulsive, proponent, prologue, prophet

*re, retro* again, back reiterate, reimburse, react, retrogress

*se* away, apart seclude, secede, seduce

*sub, suc, sup, sus* under, less subway, subjugate, suppress

*super, sur* over, above superior, supernatural, supervise, surtax

*syn, sym, syl , sys* with, together symmetry, synchronize, synthesize, sympathize

*trans* across transfer, transport, transpose

*un* not unabridged, unkempt, unwitting

*vice* in place of vicarious, viceroy, vice-president

# Common Suffixes

*able, ible* ADJ: capable of edible, presentable, legible

*ac, ic, ical* ADJ: like, related cardiac, mythic, dramatic, musical

*acious, icious* ADJ: full of malicious, audacious, perspicacious *al, il, ile* ADJ/N: pertaining to maniacal, logical, civil, puerile

*ant, ent* ADJ/N: full of eloquent, verdant

*ary* ADJ/N: connected with dictionary, honorary

*ate* V: make, become consecrate, enervate, eradicate

*cy, ty, ity* N: state of being democracy, accuracy, veracity

*escent* ADJ: becoming evanescent, pubescent, adolescent

*fy* V: to make magnify, petrify, beautify

*iferous* ADJ: producing pestiferous, vociferous

*ism* N: doctrine, belief monotheism, fanaticism, egotism

*ist* N: dealer, doer fascist, realist, artist

*ive* ADJ: like expensive, quantitative, effusive

*ize, ise* V: make victimize, rationalize, harmonize

*oid* ADJ: resembling ovoid, anthropoid, spheroid

*ose/ous* ADJ: full of verbose, lachrymose, nauseous, gaseous

*osis* N: condition psychosis, neurosis, hypnosis

*tion, sion* N: state of being exasperation, irritation, transition, concession

*tude* N: state of fortitude, beatitude, certitude

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Topic: Basic comparing and contrasting**

**Model Questions:**

1. Write two words for contrasting and use them in sentence.
2. Write two words for comparing and use them in sentence.
3. Combine the given sentences using the comparison signal word.
4. Combine the given sentences using the contrasting signal word.
5. Complete the given sentences using either comparing or contrasting signal words.

Key Words for Comparing and Contrasting

**The following words signal that two pieces are being compared:**

Also as well as both comparatively

in the same way in addition just as like

most important similarly the same as too

**The following words signal that two pieces are being contrasted:**

Although besides but compared with

Conversely differ even though furthermore

However in contrast to instead less than

more than nevertheless notwithstanding on the other hand

otherwise rather than regardless though

unless unlike while yet

**SAMPLE WORKSHEET ON COMPARING AND CONTRASTING**

**A. Combine the two ideas into one sentence using the comparison signal word in the box.**

and….(too)

like

equally

both….and

just as

similarlyyy

1. Newspapers and magazines need advertising to pay their costs. Radio and television

advertising to pay their costs.

2. The media reach millions of people around the world. The Internet reaches people

everywhere.

3. Most people read a daily newspaper. Most people listen to the radio or watch TV every day.

4. Printed pictures are powerful advertising media. Video is power advertising media.

**B. Combine the ideas by choosing one of the signal words in the box.**

nor only….but also

both...and

similar to

the same ...as

1. The Spanish language/the Italian language.

2. Knowing a second language/useful/travel/employment

3. The amount of snowfall in Yamagata/the amount of snowfall in Akita

4. Private/public universities/good education

# C. Combine the ideas by choosing one of the signal words in the box.

Although/even though

butt

unlike

however

whereas

1. I have brown eyes/my brother’s eyes are green

2. My grandfather is the smartest person I know/My grandfather never finished high school.

3. A university has a graduate school. A college does not.

4. Medical care is free in Canada. People must pay for medical care in the US.

# D. Complete the sentence with your own idea using one of the signal words in the box.

yet although whereas

different from however in contrast

* 1. In Japan, people drive on the left side of the road,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Texting is a popular way to communicate for young people .

3. The method of cooking rice in China .

4. I woke up early \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Topic: Idioms and Phrases**

**Model Questions:**

1. What are idioms? Write with examples.
2. Complete the sentences with suitable idiom.
3. Use the given idioms in sentences.
4. Match the given idioms with their meanings.
5. Write the meanings of the given idioms.

* Idiom – A group of words (or a single word) that have a meaning that is not understood by combining the standard definitions of the individual words (though that meaning may sometimes be inferred).
* Idioms are a style or form of (often artistic) expression, characteristic of a particular language, group, subculture, school of thought, generation, or medium (for example, movies and television).
* To master idioms really requires to understand them intellectually (perhaps by first reading) and also to hear them used properly by native speakers (or near-native speakers) of English.

**List of commonly used Idioms and Phrases:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S.No. | Idioms & Phrases | Meaning |
| 1. | **Rank and File** | Ordinary People |
| 2. | **By fits and starts** | In short periods, not regularly |
| 3. | **A wee bit** | A little |
| 4. | **Out of the wood** | Free from difficulties and dangers |
| 5. | **Under his thumb** | Under his control |
| 6. | **At one’s wits end** | In a state where one does not know what to do |
| 7. | **Between the devil and the deep sea** | Between two dangers |
| 8. | **Burn the midnight oil** | Work or study hard |
| 9. | **Call a spade a spade** | Speak frankly and directly |
| 10. | **Come off with flying colors** | Be highly successful |
| 11. | **Hoping against hope** | Without hope |
| 12. | **Hit the nail on the head** | Do or say the exact thing |
| 13. | **An axe to grind** | A personal interest in the matter |
| 14. | **To get rid of** | Dispose of |
| 15. | **At daggers drawn** | Bitterly hostile |
| 16. | **To play ducks and drakes** | To act foolishly or inconsistently |
| 17. | **To take the bull by the horns** | To tackle a problem in a bold and direct fashion |
| 18. | **Rain cats and dogs** | Rain heavily |
| 19. | **To move heaven and earth** | To make a supreme effort |
| 20. | **No avail** | Without any result |
| 21. | **Bark up the wrong tree** | Accuse or denounce the wrong person |
| 22. | **Keep one at bay** | Keep one at a distance |
| 23. | **Make a clean breast of it** | Confess – especially when a person has done a wrong thing |
| 24. | **Have a card up one’s sleeve** | Have a secret plan in reserve |
| 25. | **Like a cat on hot bricks** | Very nervous |
| 26. | **Cat and dog life** | Life full of quarrels |
| 27. | **Cock and bull story** | Made up story that one should not believe |
| 28. | **Cry for the moon** | Ask for the impossible |
| 29. | **The pros and cons** | The various aspects of a matter in detail |
| 30. | **Be in a tight corner** | In a very difficult situation |
| 31. | **Cross one’s t’s and dot** | Be precise, careful and one’s i’s exact |
| 32. | **At arm’s length** | To keep at a distance |
| 33. | **Out of the question** | Impossible |
| 34. | **Out of the way** | Strange |
| 35. | **Show a clean pair of heals** | Run away |
| 36. | **Keep one’s fingers crossed** | The anxiety in which you hope that nothing will upset your plans |
| 37. | **In the nick of time** | Just at the last moment |
| 38. | **Sitting on the fence** | Hesitate between two decisions |
| 39. | **Spread like wild fire** | Spread quickly |
| 40. | **The gift of the gab** | Talent for speaking |
| 41. | **By hook or by crook** | By fair or foul means |
| 42. | **Feather one’s own nest** | Make money unfairly |
| 43. | **Throw out of gear** | Disturb the work |
| 44. | **Take to one’s heels** | Run away |
| 45. | **Tooth and nail** | With all one’s power |
| 46. | **Die in harness** | Die while in service |
| 47. | **Take a leaf out of one’s book** | Imitate one |
| 48. | **Leave no stone unturned** | Use all available means |
| 49. | **A man of straw** | A man of no substance |
| 50. | **Read between the lines** | Understand the hidden meaning |
| 51. | **In cold blood** | Deliberately and without emotion |
| 52. | **A thorn in the flesh** | A constant source of annoyance |
| 53. | **Smell a rat** | Suspect something foul |
| 54. | **Harp on the same string** | Dwell on the same subject |
| 55. | **Bury the hatchet** | End the quarrel and make peace |
| 56. | **Leave one in the lurch** | Desert one in difficulties; leave one in a helpless condition |
| 57. | **Like a fish out of water** | In a strange situation |
| 58. | **At one’s beck and call** | Under his control |
| 59. | **To make both ends meet** | To live within one’s income |
| 60. | **In hot water** | In trouble |
| 61. | **Nip in the bud** | Destroy in the early stage |
| 62. | **Stick to one’s guns** | Remain faithful to the cause |
| 63. | **To eat humble pie** | To apologize humbly and to yield under humiliating circumstances |
| 64. | **In high spirits** | Very happy |
| 65. | **Put the cart before the horse** | Put or do things in the wrong order |
| 66. | **To all names** | To abuse |
| 67. | **On tenterhooks** | In a state of suspense and anxiety |
| 68. | **Wash one’s dirty linen** | Discuss unpleasant in public-private matters before strangers |
| 69. | **To bell the cat** | To face the risk |
| 70. | **A hard nut to crack** | A difficult problem |
| 71. | **Let the cat out of the bag** | Reveal a secret |
| 72. | **A big gun** | An important person |
| 73. | **Kill two birds with one stone** | To achieve two results with one effort |
| 74. | **Take one to task** | Rebuke |
| 75. | **Gain ground** | Become Popular |
| 76. | **To blow one’s own** | To praise one’s own trumpet achievement |
| 77. | **A bosom friend** | A very close friend |
| 78. | **A brown study** | Dreaming |
| 79. | **Turn a deaf ear** | Disregard / ignore what one says |
| 80. | **A close shave** | Narrow escape |
| 81. | **Turn over a new leaf** | Change for the better |
| 82. | **Make up one’s mind** | Decide |
| 83. | **In the long run** | Eventually; ultimately |
| 84. | **Bring to light** | Disclose |
| 85. | **Pay off old scores** | Take revenge |
| 86. | **Hard and fast rules** | Strict rules |
| 87. | **At the eleventh hour** | At the last moment |
| 88. | **A close shave** | Narrow escape |
| 89. | **To cut a sorry figure** | To make a poor show |
| 90. | **With a high hand** | Oppressively |
| 91. | **Burn one’s fingers** | Get into trouble by interfering in other’s affairs |
| 92. | **Laugh one’s head off** | Laugh heartily |
| 93. | **Chew the cud** | Ponder over something |
| 94. | **Play second fiddle** | Take an unimportant part |
| 95. | **Above board** | Honest and open |
| 96. | **Through thick and thin** | Under all conditions |
| 97. | **Put a spoke in one’s wheel** | To upset one’s plans |
| 98. | **At sixes and sevens** | In a disordered/disorganized manner, chaotic |
| 99. | **At home** | Comfortable |
| 100. | **Alpha and omega** | The beginning and the end |
| 101. | **At sea** | Confused and lost |
| 102. | **A bosom friend** | A very close friend |
| 103. | **At one’s beck and call** | At one’s service |
| 104. | **By leaps and bounds** | Rapidly |
| 105. | **To burn one’s boats** | Go back on a decision |
| 106. | **To beat about the bush** | Talk irrelevantly |
| 107. | **To burn candle at both ends** | To waste lavishly |
| 108. | **Take one to task** | Rebuke |
| 109. | **A bone of contention** | A source of quarrel |
| 110. | **Add fuel to the fire** | To aggravate the situation |
| 111. | **An acid test** | A critical test |
| 112. | **At a snail’s pace** | Very slowly |
| 113. | **A bolt from the blue** | Something unexpected |
| 114. | **To build castles in the air** | Make imaginary schemes |
| 115. | **Once in a blue moon** | Something that happens very rarely |
| 116. | **Beating around the bush** | Avoiding the main topic |
| 117. | **Cry over spilled milk** | Complaining about a loss or failure from the past |
| 118. | **Chip on your shoulder** | When someone is upset about something that happened a while ago |
| 119. | **Piece of cake** | Something that is easy to understand or do |
| 120. | **Golden handshake** | A big sum of money given to a person when he/she leaves a company or retires |
| 121. | **Spill the beans** | To disclose a secret |
| 122. | **Blessing in disguise** | Something good and useful that did not initially seem that way |
| 123. | **Mean business** | Being Serious or Dedicated |
| 124. | **Come hell or high water** | Possible obstacles in your path |
| 125. | **Apple of one’s eye** | Being cherished |
| 126. | **Bite off more than you can chew** | Not able to complete a task due to lack of ability |
| 127. | **The best of both worlds** | The benefits of widely differing situations, enjoyed at the same time |
| 128. | **Feeling a bit under the weather** | Feeling slightly ill |
| 129. | **Icing on the cake** | Something that turns good into great |
| 130. | **Cost an arm and a leg** | Be very expensive |
| 131. | **Jump the bandwagon** | To join a popular activity or trend |
| 132. | **Ball is in your court** | When it is up to you to make the next decision or step |
| 133. | **To be in the doldrums** | To be in low spirits |
| 134. | **To sit on the fence** | To remain neutral |
| 135. | **Break the ice** | To initiate a social conversation or interaction |
| 136. | **Hear it on grapevine** | To hear rumors about something or someone |
| 137. | **Can’t judge a book by its cover** | Cannot judge something primarily on appearance |
| 138. | **It takes two to tango** | Actions or communications need more than one person |
| 139. | **Let the cat out of the bag** | To reveal the secret carelessly or by mistake |
| 140. | **Black and blue** | Full of Bruises |
| 141. | **Be on cloud nine** | Be very happy |
| 142. | **Last straw** | The final problem in a series of problems |
| 143. | **A bird’s eye view** | A view from a very high place that allows you to see a very large area |
| 144. | **A litmus Test** | A method that helps to know if something is correct |
| 145. | **At the drop of a hat** | Willingness to do something instantly |
| 146. | **Afraid of one’s own shadow** | To become easily frightened |
| 147. | **A house of cards** | A poor plan |
| 148. | **Fool’s paradise** | False sense of happiness |
| 149. | **Get a raw deal** | To not be treated as well as other people |
| 150. | **Give cold shoulder** | To ignore |
| 151. | **Hand to mouth** | Live on only basic necessities |
| 152. | **Make a face** | To show dislike or disappointment through facial expressions |
| 153. | **It’s Greek to me** | Something that is not understandable |
| 154. | **To pour oil on troubled waters** | To make peace |
| 155. | **Don’t put all your eggs in one basket** | Do not put all your resources in one basket (in one place or thing) |
| 156. | **To put in a nutshell** | To say in a few words or to make something concise |
| 157. | **Back out** | To withdraw from a promise or contract |
| 158. | **Blow up** | To explode |
| 159. | **Back Up** | To support and sustain |
| 160. | **Back Upon** | To be relevant |
| 161. | **Break Down** | Failure in something |
| 162. | **Break off** | To end or discontinue |
| 163. | **Break Up** | To disperse / dissolve |
| 164. | **Bring up** | To rear |
| 165. | **Call forth** | To provoke |
| 166. | **Call out** | To shout |
| 167. | **Call upon** | To order |
| 168. | **Carry on** | To continue |
| 169. | **Cast away** | To throw aside |
| 170. | **Catch up with** | To overtake |
| 171. | **Come off** | To take place |
| 172. | **Cry Down** | To make little of |
| 173. | **Catch up with** | To overtake |
| 174. | **Cry out against** | To complain loudly against |
| 175. | **Cut out** | Designed for |
| 176. | **Drop in** | To Visit Casually |
| 177. | **Drop out** | To fall |
| 178. | **Fall back** | To Recede; To Retreat |
| 179. | **Fall down** | From a higher position to a lower one |
| 180. | **Fall off** | To Withdraw; To Drop Off |
| 181. | **Fall under** | To come under |
| 182. | **Get along** | To Prosper; To Progress; To Proceed |
| 183. | **Get on with** | To Live Pleasantly Together; To Progress |
| 184. | **Get into** | To be involved in |
| 185. | **Give in** | To Surrender; To Yield |
| 186. | **Give over** | Not to do any longer |
| 187. | **Go after** | To Follow; To Pursue |
| 188. | **Go Down** | To be accepted |
| 189. | **Go without** | To remain without |
| 190. | **Go by** | To follow |
| 191. | **Hang about** | To Loiter near a place |
| 192. | **Hang upon** | To depend upon |
| 193. | **Hold out** | To Endure; To Refuse to yield; To continue; To offer |
| 194. | **Hold to** | Abide By |
| 195. | **Keep off** | To ward off |
| 196. | **Keep up with** | To keep pace with |
| 197. | **Knock out** | To win by hitting another one |
| 198. | **It takes two to tango** | Both people involved in a bad situation are responsible for it |
| 199. | **Last straw** | The final problem in a series of problems |
| 200. | **Keep something at bay** | Keep something away |
| 201. | **Kill two birds with one stone** | To solve two problems at a time with just one action |
| 202. | **Let sleeping dogs lie** | Leave something alone if it might cause trouble |
| 203. | **Open the floodgates** | Release something that was previously under control |
| 204. | **Out of the blue** | Happen unexpectedly |
| 205. | **Out on a limb** | Do something  risky |
| 206. | **Over the Top** | Totally excessive and not suitable for the occasion |
| 207. | **Pen is mightier than the sword** | Words and communication have a greater effect than war |
| 208. | **Push one’s luck** | Trying to obtain more than what one has |
| 209. | **Reap the harvest** | Benefit or suffer as a direct result of past actions |
| 210. | **Roll up sleeves** | To get yourself prepared |
| 211. | **See eye to eye** | To be in agreement with |
| 212. | **Shot in the dark** | A complete guess |
| 213. | **Sink your teeth into** | Do something with a lot of energy and enthusiasm |
| 214. | **Take with a grain/pinch of salt** | To doubt the accuracy of information |
| 215. | **Skating on thin ice** | Do or say something risky |
| 216. | **Tight spot** | A difficult situation |
| 217. | **Strike while the iron is hot** | To act at the right time |
| 218. | **Take the plunge** | Venture into something of one’s interest despite the risks involved |
| 219. | **Take a nosedive** | Rapid drop or decrease in value |
| 220. | **Think the world of** | Admire someone very much |
| 221. | **Stand in a good stead** | To be useful or be of good service to someone |
| 222. | **Take a back seat** | Choose to be less important in a role |
| 223. | **Wave a dead chicken** | Do something useless |
| 224. | **Whale of a time** | Enjoy a lot |
| 225. | **Wrap one’s brain around** | Concentrate on something to understand |
| 226. | **Zero in on something** | Focus all attention on one thing |
| 227. | **Above all** | Chiefly, Mainly |
| 228. | **On Account of** | Due to |
| 229. | **On no account** | Not for Any Reason |
| 230. | **A Fidus Achates** | A faithful friend or a devoted follower |
| 231. | **The Heel of Achilles** | A Weak Point |
| 232. | **An Adonis** | A very handsome man |
| 233. | **To assume airs** | To affect superiority |
| 234. | **To stand aloof** | To keep to oneself and not mix with others |
| 235. | **To lead to the altar** | To marry |
| 236. | **An Ananias** | A Liar |
| 237. | **An Apollo** | A Man with Perfect Physique |
| 238. | **To Upset the Apple Cart** | To disturb the peace |
| 239. | **Apple Pie Order** | In perfect order |
| 240. | **Arcadian Life** | A blissful, happy, rural and simple life |
| 241. | **To take up arms** | To fight or go to the war |
| 242. | **To Grind** | To have some selfish objective in view |
| 243. | **To break the back of anything** | To perform the most difficult part |
| 244. | **To backbite a person** | To speak disguise about someone |
| 245. | **He has no backbone** | He has no will of his own |
| 246. | **To cause bad blood** | To Cause Enmity |
| 247. | **Bag and Baggage** | With all one’s belongings |
| 248. | **To keep the ball rolling** | To keep things going |
| 249. | **Barmecide feast** | Imaginary Benefits |
| 250. | **Bee-line** | The shortest distance between two places |
| 251. | **Behind one’s back** | Without one’s Knowledge |
| 252. | **Behind the scenes** | In Private |
| 253. | **To hit below the belt** | To act unfairly in a contest |
| 254. | **To bite the dust** | To be Defeated in Battle |
| 255. | **A Wet Blanket** | A person who discourages enjoyment or enthusiasm |
| 256. | **In Cold Blood** | Deliberately |
| 257. | **A blue Stocking** | A learned/educated or intellectual woman |
| 258. | **At First Blush** | At first sight |
| 259. | **A Bolt from the Blue** | Something completely unexpected that surprises you |
| 260. | **One’s bread and butter** | One’s means of livelihood |
| 261. | **To breadth one’s last** | To Die |
| 262. | **To make bricks without straw** | To attempt to do something without proper materials |
| 263. | **To kick the bucket** | To die |
| 264. | **Good wine needs no bush** | There is no need to advertise something good |
| 265. | **To burn the candle at both ends** | To expend energy in two directions at the same time |
| 266. | **If the cap fits, wear it** | If you think the remarks refer to you, then accept the criticism |
| 267. | **Care killed the cat** | Don’t fret and worry yourself to death |
| 268. | **To Catch one’s eye** | To attract attention |
| 269. | **To take the chair** | To preside a meeting |
| 270. | **She is no chicken** | She is older than she says |
| 271. | **To pick and choose** | To make a careful selection |
| 272. | **To square the circle** | To attempt something impossible |
| 273. | **Every cloud has a silver lining** | Adverse conditions do not last forever |
| 274. | **Close fisted** | Mean |
| 275. | **Cut your cloth according to your cloth** | Live within your income |
| 276. | **A cock and bull story** | A foolishly incredible story |
| 277. | **To be cock sure** | To be perfectly sure or certain |
| 278. | **To throw cold water upon anything** | To discourage efforts |
| 279. | **Off color** | Not in the usual form |
| 280. | **To commit to memory** | To learn by heart |
| 281. | **Too many cooks spoil the broth** | Where there are more workers than necessary |
| 282. | **Crocodile tears** | Hypocritical Tears |
| 283. | **By hook or by crook** | By fair or foul means |
| 284. | **Cut and dried** | Readymade |
| 285. | **Up to date** | Recent |
| 286. | **Evil days** | A period of misfortune |
| 287. | **Halcyon Days** | A time when there are peace and happiness in the land |
| 288. | **To step into dead man’s shoes** | To come into an inheritance |
| 289. | **Go to the devil** | Be off |
| 290. | **Devil’s bones** | Dice |
| 291. | **Devil’s Playthings** | Playing Cards |
| 292. | **Give a dog a bad name and hang him** | Once a person loses his reputation |
| 293. | **Every dog has his day** | Sooner or later, everyone has his share of good fortune |
| 294. | **To throw dust in one’s eyes** | To try to deceive someone or mislead someone |
| 295. | **A white elephant** | A useless possession which is extremely expensive to keep |
| 296. | **To set the Thames on fire** | To do something sensational or remarkable |
| 297. | **A burnt child dreads the fire** | One who has had a previous unpleasant experience is always scared of situations where such experiences are likely to be repeated |
| 298. | **A fish out of water** | Anyone in an awkward |
| 299. | **Foul play** | Cheating |
| 300. | **To jump from a frying pan into fire** | To come out of one trouble and get into a worse |
| 301. | **All that glitters are not gold** | Things are not always as attractive as they appear |
| 302. | **To die in harness** | To continue at one’s occupation until death |
| 303. | **Make hay while the sun shines** | Take advantage of all opportunities |
| 304. | **Lock, stock and barrel** | The whole of everything |
| 305. | **A miss is as good as a mile** | Comes nowhere near it. If someone narrowly misses the target it still is treated as a missed one or failure. |
| 306. | **To move heaven and earth** | To exert all efforts |
| 307. | **One swallow does not make a summer** | It is unreliable to base one’s conclusions on only a single test or incident |
| 308. | **If wishes were horses, beggars might ride** | If wishing could make things happen, then even the most destitute people would have everything they wanted |
| 309. | **A nine days’ wonder** | An event which relates a sensation for a time but is soon forgotten |
| 310. | **Yellow press** | Newspapers which publish sensational and unscrupulous stories and exaggerates the news to attract readers. |
| 311. | **A ball park figure** | A general financial figure |
| 312. | **To balance the books** | To make certain that the amount of money spent is not more than the amount of money received. |
| 313. | **A cash cow** | A product or service that makes a lot of money for a company |
| 314. | **Devil’s Advocate** | To present a counter argument |
| 315. | **Don’t give up the day job** | You are not very good at something. You could not do it professionally. |
| 316. | **To cook the books** | To modify financial statements |
| 317. | **To get the sack** | To be dismissed from your job |
| 318. | **To be snowed under** | To be very busy |
| 319. | **To work your fingers to the boneOrTo sweat blood** | To work really hard |
| 320. | **Hear it on the grapevine** | To hear rumors |
| 321. | **In the heat of the moment** | Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment |
| 322. | **Not a spark of decency** | No Manners |
| 323. | **Speak of the devil!** | This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives |
| 324. | **Whole nine yards** | Everything. All of it |
| 325. | **Your guess is as good as mine** | To have no idea about anything |

**Sample Worksheet on Idioms and Phrases**

**Fill in the blanks with suitable idioms or phrases.**

1. He drops in ————— for a chat with me.

a) Over and over b) Off and on

c) Of and on d) Off and over

2. I have seen many people falling prey to his ——————–

a) Sticky tongue b) Sugary tongue

c) Oily tongue d) None of these

3. I suspect he made that mistake ———————-

a) On mistake b) On purpose

c) On alert d) On the alert

4. The officer asked the commandos to be ——————

a) On purpose b) On the alert

c) On edge d) Off their head

5. He ran very fast and was soon ———————-

a) Out of breath b) Out off breath

c) Off breath d) None of these

6. Do this job ———————– and you will be free in the evening.

a) Out of date b) Out of hand

c) Out of one’s mind d) Out and out

7. He was shouting and screaming as if he was ———————-

a) Of his head b) Out of his mind

c) Out of his head d) Out of order

8. The speech was full of technical jargon that it went ———————– of the audience.

a) Over and above b) Over the head

c) Over and over d) None of these

9. It was a very difficult job; nevertheless, he decided to put his ————————

a) Shoulder to the wheel b) Arm to the wheel

c) Chest to the wheel d) His feet in it

10. I had been unfair to him but he ——————— by his generous behavior.

a) Put me to flight b) Put me to shame

c) Put up with d) Put up to

11. You never know how he will behave. He is a ———————-

a) Queer dog b) Queer fish

c) Queer cat d) Queer wolf

12. I ———————— still I couldn’t find a solution to the problem.

a) Read between the lines b) Racked my brains

c) Racked my mind d) Racked my soul

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Topic: One Word Substitutes**

**Model Questions:**

1. **What are one word substitutes? Write two examples.**
2. **Match the one word substitutes with their meaning.**
3. **Substitute the given sentences with one word substitutes.**
4. **Use the given one word substitutes in a sentence.**
5. **Fill the blanks with the suitable one word substitutes.**

**List of commonly used one word substitutes:**

* An abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word - **Acronym**
* An ability to do several things at the same time - **Multitasking**
* An ability to express oneself well in speech - **Oracy**
* An ability to make good judgements and take quick decisions - **Acumen**
* An ability to see what will or might happen in the - **Foresight**
* An ability to stay calm in difficult or dangerous situations - **Sangfroid**
* An ability to use one's hands skillfully or an ability to think quickly and effectively - **Dexterity**
* An ability, talent, or special skill needed to do something - **Knack**
* Able to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens - **Resilient**
* Able to do many different things - **Versatile**
* Able to exist together without trouble or conflict going together well - Compatible
* Acceptable according to the law, fair or reasonable - **Valid**
* Accepting and closely following the traditional beliefs and customs of a religion - **Orthodox**
* An act of carefully watching someone or something especially in order to prevent or detect a crime - **Surveillance**
* An act of causing two people or groups to become friendly again after an argument or disagreement - **Reconciliation**
* An act of committing a serious crime such as murder or rape - **Felony**
* An act of destroying or damaging something deliberately so that it does not work correctly - **Sabotage**
* An act of ending the employment of a worker or group of workers - **Layoff**
* An act of explaining something - **Exposition**
* An act of going or travelling to a place along a way that is different from the usual or planned way - **Detour**
* An act of identifying a disease, illness, or problem by examining someone or something - **Diagnosis**
* An act of illegally copying someone's product or invention without permission – **Piracy**
* An act of no longer caring for, using, or doing something, failure to do one's job or duty - **Dereliction**
* An act of officially charging someone with a crime - **Indictment**
* An act of punishing or harming somebody in return for what they have done to you your family or friends - **Vengeance**
* An act of remembering or telling about past experiences - **Reminiscence**
* An act of returning something that was lost or stolen to its owner - **Restitution**
* An act of sending someone to another person or place for treatment, help, advice, etc. - **Referral**
* An act or means of sealing off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving - **Blockade**
* An act that is part of a usually religious ceremony - **Rite**
* An act, activity, or process of finding the way to get to a place when one is travelling in a ship, airplane, car - **Navigation**
* An action of making amends for a wrong or injury - **Atonement**
* An action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt - **Redemption**
* An action or event that is a signal for somebody to do something - **Cue**
* An action or offence of speaking sacrilegiously about God or sacred things; profane talk - **Blasphemy**
* An activity or art of copying the behavior or speech of other people - **Mimicry**
* An activity or excitement that is unusual and that often is not wanted or necessary - **Fuss**
* An activity in that more and more people are becoming involved - **Bandwagon**
* Add notes to (a text or diagram) giving explanation or comment - **Annotate**
* An additional fact or piece of information about a story that occurs after the main part - **Postscript**
* Advantages or gains secured as a result of corrupt practices - **Graft**
* An advice and future prediction based on the date of a person's birth and the positions of the stars and planets - **Horoscope**
* Agreed to by everyone - **Unanimous**
* An agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting, arguing, etc., for a certain period of time - **Truce**
* All the plants that live in a particular area, time, period, or environment - **Flora**
* All the things that a person is able to do - **Repertoire**
* Allowed to know about (something secret) - **Privy**
* Always or often happening or existing - **Inveterate**
* An amount (such as an amount of money) that is more than the amount that is needed - **Surplus**
* An amount of money given to a retiring soldier or employee - **Gratuity**
* An amount of money paid for a service - **Honorarium**
* An amount of money that a company or the government pays to a person who is old or sick and no longer works - **Pension**
* An amount of money that is given to someone in return for providing help in a secret and dishonest business deal - **Kickback**
* An amount of money that is paid at one time - **Lump sum**
* An amount of money that is spent - **Outlay**
* An amount of money that must be paid and that is collected by a government or other authority - **Levy**
* An amount of something that is produced by a person or thing - **Output**
* An amount of time that a person holds a job, office, or title - **Tenure**
* Amusing and very strange - **Wacky**
* An argument that is complicated and continues over a long period of time - **Wrangle**
* An invigilator at a university or college examination - **Proctor**
* An ancient text in the form of a book, official list of medicines or chemicals - **Codex**
* Anger caused by something that is unfair or wrong - **Indignation**
* An angry woman who often complains about and criticizes other people - **Virago**
* An animal or plant that lives in or on another animal or plant and gets food or protection from it - **Parasite**
* An animal that has four feet - **Quadruped**
* Annoy (someone) by often complaining about his or her behavior, appearance - **Nag**
* An annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information such as astronomical data and tide tables - **Almanac**
* Any one of the large parts that some countries are divided into - **Province**
* Any one of the lines that go from the North Pole to the South Pole on maps of the world - **Meridian**
* Appearing, happening,, or arriving soon - **Forthcoming**
* An area around or near a particular place - **Vicinity**
* An area in a desert where there is water and plants - **Oasis**
* An area of land that has a particular quality or appearance - **Landscape**
* An area of sea water that is separated from the ocean by a reef or sandbar - **Lagoon**
* An area of soft, wet ground; situation that is hard to deal with or get out of -**Quagmire**
* An area that is not close to any cities or towns - **Hinterland**
* An area with people who are different in some way from the people in the areas around it - **Enclave**
* An area within which someone or something has authority, influence, or knowledge - **Purview**
* Argue loudly about things that are not important - **Squabble**
* Argue with someone in a friendly way - **Spar**
* An arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence - **Chronology**
* An arrangement of leaves, flowers, fruits, etc., in the shape of a circle that is used for decoration - **Wreath**
* An arrangement to meet somebody at a particular time and place - **Rendezvous**
* Arrival of a large number of people - **Influx**
* An art of growing ornamental, artificially dwarfed varieties of trees and shrubs in pots - **Bonsai**
* An art, science, or profession of teaching - **Pedagogy**
* As compared with; as opposed to - **Vis-a-vis**
* Asking for or demanding and taking (something) for one's use - **Requisition**
* At or near the end of a piece of writing - **Ad fin**
* Attacking on the reputation and integrity of someone or something - **Aspersion**
* Attractive in a sexual way with large breasts and hips - **Voluptuous**
* An attractively arranged bunch of flowers,especially one presented as a gift or carried at a ceremony - **Bouquet**
* Average or ordinary - **Run-of-the-mill**
* Back in which the spine is curved in an abnormal way - **Hunchback**
* Bad or immoral behaviour or habits - **Vice**
* Bad or unfavorable; not good - **Untoward**
* Based on random choices or personal whims,rather than any reason or system- **Arbitrary**

Based on what is known or seen when something is first considered or dealt with - **Prima facie**

* Basic equipment and structures (such as roads and bridges) that are needed for a country, region, or organization to function properly - **Infrastructure**
* Be angry or upset about something and to refuse to discuss it with other people -**Sulk**
* Be deprived of a close relation or friend through their death - **Bereave**
* Be repeated several times as it is reflected off different surface - **Reverberate**
* Beginning or first appearance of something - **Dawning**
* Beginning or origin of something - **Genesis**
* Beginning to develop or exist - **Incipient**
* Beginning to exist; recently formed or developed - **Nascent**
* Behaviour that is accepted as socially or morally correct and proper - **Propriety**
* Behaviour that shows low morals and a great love of pleasure, money, fame, etc - **Decadence**
* Behaviour in which somebody pretends to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have - **Hypocrisy**
* Beliefs that particular events happen in a way that cannot be explained by reason or science - **Superstition**
* Belonging or relating to heaven - **Celestial**
* Belonging to a foreign country, supposedly from another world; unfamiliar and disturbing or distasteful - **Alien**
* Belonging to a particular place rather than coming to it from somewhere else -

**Indigenous**

* Belonging to the basic nature of someone or something **- Inherent**
* Belonging to the middle class **- Bourgeois**
* Below or beneath (something) **- Underneath**
* Bending down or over; doing something that is not honest, fair, etc. **- Stoop**
* Benefits which one enjoys or is entitled to on account of one's job or position **-**

**Perquisite**

* Best or most important part of something; the point of greatest success or achievement **- Pinnacle**
* Best or most important thing owned or produced by a particular organization -

**Flagship**

* Better than all others - **Par excellence**
* Blaming or insulting (someone) in strong or violent language - **Vituperate**
* Block of stone or wood that is used as the base for a pillar, statue, etc. - **Plinth**
* Books, articles, etc., that discuss a subject carefully and thoroughly - **Treatise**
* Border or line that separates two things, such as types of work, groups of people or areas of land - **Demarcation**
* Boring or unpleasant work that does not require special skill and usually does not pay much money - **Menial**
* Break off (a meeting, legal case , or game) with the intention of resuming it later - **Adjorn**
* Brief written messages or reports from one person or department in a company or organization to another - **Memorandum**
* Bringing (someone who is unconscious, not breathing, or close to death) back to a conscious or active state again - **Resuscitate**
* Broken parts of a vehicle, building, etc., that has been badly damaged or destroyed - **Wreckage**
* Brother or sister - **Sibling**
* Building and the area of land that it is on, statement or idea that is accepted as being true and that is used as the basis of an argument - **Premise**
* Building in which grain is stored - **Granary**
* Building in which the bodies of dead people are burned - **Crematorium**
* Building or chamber above or below the ground in which a dead body is kept -

**Tomb**

* Building or room in which images of stars, planets, etc., are shown on a high, curved ceiling - **Planetarium**
* Building that is used for Jewish religious services - **Synagogue**
* By or for each person - **Per capita**
* Caption to a photograph or other illustration - **Cutline**
* Card from the pack that has been chosen as the most valuable for a particular card game - **Trump**
* Careful and persistent works or efforts - **Diligence**
* Careful plans or methods for achieving a particular goal usually over a long period of time - **Strategy**
* Cause (someone or something) to receive or take in a large amount of things at the same time - **Inundate**
* Cause (things or people) to separate and go in different directions - **Scatter**
* Cause of pain or harm - **Affliction**
* Centre of public attention - **Limelight**
* Ceremony held for a dead person - **Funeral**
* Ceremony held in a university or college when students receive their degrees -

**Convocation**

* Certain to work properly or succeed - **Infallible**
* Changing (something good) so that it is no longer as what it was or should be -

**Pervert**

* Charging an important public figure with a serious crime - **Impeach**
* Changing (something) slightly in order to improve it; to make small adjustments to (something) - **Tweak**
* Changing an earlier statement, opinion or promise because of pressure from somebody/something - **Backtrack**
* Changing direction quickly or suddenly - **Veer**
* Changing from one state or condition to another - **Transition**
* Character and atmosphere of a place - **Ambience**
* Chemical processes that occur within a living organism in order to maintain life- **Metabolism**
* Clear message or request for people to do something - **Clarion call**
* Climb or moving with difficulty or a lot of effort, using one's hands and feet -

**Clamber**

* Close friend one has worked with, been in the military with, etc. **- Comrade**
* Close relationship with someone or something **- Communion**
* Clothes, especially fine or formal ones - **attire**
* Collectable object such as a piece of furniture or work of art that has a high value because of its age and quality- **Antique**
* Collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people - **Archive**
* Collection of things, which may be similar or different - **Collage**
* Collection of weapons and military equipment - **Arsenals**
* Collection of written or spoken texts - **Corpus**
* Combination of events, state of affairs - **Conjuncture**
* Come at a later time; to happen as a result - **Ensure**
* Comparing between one thing and another, typically for the purpose of explanation or clarification - **Analogy**
* Compelling attractiveness or charm that can inspire devotion in others -

**Charisma**

* Complete change of attitude or opinion - **Volte - Face**
* Complete control of the entire supply of goods or of a service in a certain area or market - **Monopoly**
* Complete lists of items, typically one in alphabetical or other systematic order -

**Catalogue**

* Complete range of different opinions, people, etc. - **Spectrum**
* Completely unwilling to change - **Intransigent**
* Complicated and confusing system of connected passage - **Maze**
* Comprising or relating to all sorts or varieties - **Omnifarious**
* Conceal the nature or existence of (a feeling or situation) - **Disguise**
* Conclusion or opinions that are formed because of known facts or evidence - **Inference**
* Condition in which a part of one's body becomes red, swollen, and painful-

**Inflammation**

* Connected with particular circumstances- **Circumstantial**
* Connected with young people who are not yet adults - **Juvenile**
* Consequences or after-effects of a significant and unpleasant event - **Aftermath**
* Consisting of or using both letters and numerals - **Alphanumeric**
* Consisting of things or people that are all the same or all of the same type - **homogeneous**
* Contests, disputes, competitions, etc., in which neither side can gain an advantage or win - **Stalemate**
* Continual increase in the price of goods and services - **Inflation**
* Continuing without stopping **- Incessant**
* Continuous rattling sound as of hard objects falling or striking each other **- Clatter**
* Controlling or influencing a situation in a skilful but sometimes dishonest way -**Manoeuvre**
* Conversations in which clever statements and replies are made quickly -

**Repartee**

* Correcting something that is unfair or wrong - **Redress**
* Courage or bravery - **Valour**
* Covered passages with arches along one or both sides **- arcade**
* Covered with decoration **- Ornate**
* Created or done for a particular purpose as necessary **- Ad hoc**
* Crime of getting money from someone by the use of force or threat **- Extortion**
* Crime of trying to overthrow one's country's government or of helping one's country's enemies during war**- Treason**
* Crimes or other morally wrong acts : illegal or immoral behavior especially by young people **- Delinquency**
* Cruel and unfair treatment by people with power over others **- Tyranny**
* Customs or a way of acting or doing things that is widely accepted and followed - **Convention**
* Cut made in something - Incision
* Dangers or problems that are hidden or not obvious at first - **Pitfall**
* Dark and dirty : not fresh or clean **- Dingy**
* Date or time when something must be finished : the last day, hour, or minute on that something will be accepted **- Deadline**
* Dead bodies of animals **- Carcass**
* Deep unconscious state, usually lasting a long time and caused by serious illness or injury **- Coma**
* Deep, wet sand into which heavy objects sink easily **- Quicksand**
* Deeply religious : devoted to a particular religion - **Devout**
* Defeating and gaining control of (someone or something) by the use of force -

**Subjugate**

* Defeating or tricking (someone) by being more intelligent or clever **- Outsmart**
* Delay doing something until a later time because one does not want to do it, because one is lazy **- Procrastinate**
* Describing (someone or something) as unimportant, weak, bad, etc - **Disparage**
* Designed or intended to teach people something - **Didactic**
* Desire to cause harm to another person - **Malice**
* Determined not to change one's opinion or attitude; difficult to deal with, remove, etc. - **Stubborn**
* Dictionary of the special terms in a particular field or job **- Glossary**
* Die because one is unable to breathe **- Suffocate**
* Difference especially between things that should be the same - **Discrepancy**
* Difficult and unpleasant to do or deal with - **Onerous**
* Difficult to handle, control, or deal with because of being large, heavy, or complex - **Unwieldy**
* Direct descent from an ancestor; ancestry or pedigree **- Lineage**
* Disappointing end to an exciting or impressive series of events**- Anticlimax**
* Disease that spreads over a whole country or the whole world **- Pandemic**
* Disguising of military personnel, equipment, and installations by painting or covering them to make them blend in with their surrounding **- Camouflage**
* Displaying wealth, knowledge, etc., in a way that is meant to attract attention, admiration, or envy - **Ostentatious**
* Doing activities for fun or enjoyment - **Play-off**
* Doing better than (someone or something) : to be more successful than (someone or something) - **Outdo**
* Doing something that is not allowed : to disobey a command or law - **Transgress**
* Done or given because one wants to and not because one is forced to -**Voluntary**
* Dull and ordinary **- Mundane**
* Eager to own and collect things - **Acquisitive**
* Easily affected, influenced, or harmed by something **- Susceptible**
* Easily hurt or harmed physically, mentally, or emotionally : open to attack, harm, or damage **- Vulnerable**
* Easily managed or controlled : willing to learn or be guided by another - **Tractable**
* Eating both plants and animals : eager to learn about many different things -

**Omnivorous**

* Economic situations where there is high inflation (= prices rising continuously) but no increase in the jobs that are available or in business activity **- Stagflation**
* Effective from a particular date in the past - **Retrospective**
* End or failure of an institution, an idea, a company, etc. : death of a person - **Demise**
* Enjoy (something) for a long time - **Savour**
* Enjoyments that someone gets from being violent or cruel or from causing pain-**Sadism**
* Entering (someone) as a member of or being a participant in something **- Enroll**
* Enthusiastic clapping by an audience as a sign of their approval **- Ovation**
* Error in the way a law, rule, or contract is written that makes it possible for some people to legally avoid obeying it **- LOOPHOLE**
* Events causing great and usually sudden damage or suffering; a disaster -

**catastrophe**

* Events involving destruction or damage on a catastrophic scale **- apocalypse**
* Events marked by festivities or celebration **- fiesta**
* Event or a short period of time that is important or unusual **- episode**
* Events or situations in which many people are killed and many things are destroyed especially by fire**- holocaust**
* Exact or very close copy of something - **Replica**
* Examples that represent or express something very well - **Epitome**
* Existing or continuing in the same way for a long time **- Perennial**
* Existing or happening in the same time period **- Contemporary**
* Existing, but not yet very noticeable, active or well developed **- Latent**
* Experiences that are very unpleasant or difficult **- Ordeal**
* Experienced or felt by watching, hearing about, or reading about someone else rather than by doing something yourself **- Vicarious**
* Expressing severe disapprovals of (someone or something), especially in a formal statement **- Censure**
* Expressing feelings or opinions in a very loud or forceful way - **Vociferous**
* Expressing opinions or criticism in a very forceful and often annoying or unpleasant way **- Strident**
* Expressions designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly : an indirect or passing reference **- Allusion**
* Expressions of strong anger or disapproval by many people - **Outcry**
* Extreme anger : a strong feeling of unhappiness because of something bad, hurtful, or morally wrong **- - Outrage**
* Extreme physical or mental sufferings **- Agony**
* Extremely good and deserving to be admired and copied **- Exemplary**
* Extremely or unusually small **- Diminutive**
* Extremely strong dislikes or fears of someone or something **– Phobia**
* Failing to show proper respect and courtesy - Impudent
* Failure to fulfil an obligation : something that happens or is done when nothing else has been done or can be done **- Default**
* Families of rulers who rule over a country for a long period of time **- Dynasty**
* Famous persons, especially in entertainment or sport **- Celebrity**
* Very good, hard, and valuable work that someone does especially to support a cause, to help a team, etc. - **Yeoman**
* Feeling a strong desire or wish for something or to do something **- Yearn**
* Feeling nervous because the ending is not known until the final moment - **Nail- biting**
* Feeling or showing great sadness because someone has died **- Mourn**
* Feeling of being sorry for doing something bad or wrong in the past - **Remorse**
* Feelings of enjoyment and enthusiasm - **Zest**
* Feelings of foolish or very strong love or admiration for someone or something

**Infatuation**

* Feelings of great happiness and excitement - **Euphoria**
* Feelings of guilt or regret - **Compunction**
* Feelings of like or dislike for someone or something especially when it is not reasonable or logical - **Prejudice**
* Feelings of sadness mixed with pleasure and affection when one thinks of happy times in the past - **Nostalgia**
* Feelings of strong dislike or disapproval of someone or something you think does not deserve respect - **Disdain**
* Feelings or beliefs that bad things will happen in the future - **Pessimism**
* Feelings or belief that good things will happen in the future - **Optimism**
* Feelings or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement - **Ecstatic**
* Feelings or a particular quality that is very noticeable and seems to surround a person or place - **Aura**
* Feelings or showing a lack of courage or confidence - **Timid**
* Feelings that someone or something gives you - **Vibe**
* Fictitious or factual works describing a series of events - **Chronicle**
* First time an actor, musician, athlete, etc., does something in public or for the public - **Debut**
* Fixed sum of money paid to someone each year, typically for the rest of their life - **Annuity**
* Flat cases for carrying documents or drawings, investments that are owned by a person or organization - **Portfolio**
* Following, watching, and bothering (someone) constantly in a way that is frightening, dangerous, etc. - **Stalk**
* Food that a person or animal usually eats- **Diet**
* Food that is cooked in a particular way, style of cooking - **Cuisine**
* Foolish, confused, or meaningless words - **Gibberish**
* For an intervening or temporary period of time - **Ad interim**
* Forcing someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence - **Abduction**
* Formal acts or the process of placing someone into a new job, position, government office - **Induction**
* Formal ceremonies or series of acts that are always performed in the same way -

**Ritual**

* Formal meetings in which representatives or experts discuss important matters, make decisions, etc. **- Congress**
* Formally choosing (someone) as a candidate for a job, position, office, etc. -

**Nominate**

* Formations of clear and distinct sounds in speech - **Articulation**
* Formal and serious promises to tell the truth or to do something - **Oath**
* Freedom from being required to do something that others are required to do -

**Exemption**

* Friendly relationships **- Rapport**
* Full and wide view of something **- panorama**
* Full of anger, arguments and bad feelings **- Acrimonious**
* Full of hate or anger, extremely or excessively harsh or strong **- Virulent**
* Funny and clever **- Witty**
* Funny plays or movies about ridiculous situations- **Farce**
* General laws, rules, principles, or criteria by which something is judged -

**Canon**

* General or basic quality or meaning of something - **Tenor**
* Generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests - **Hospitality**
* Genuine, real or legal; not false - **Bona fide**
* Giving a brief summary of something - **Recapitulate**
* Giving or being a sign of (something that will happen or develop in the future)

**Presage**

* Giving somebody a signal using your finger or hand, especially to tell them to move nearer or to follow you - **Beckon**
* Giving up (something) : to give (something, such as power, control, or possession) to another person or group - **Relinquish**
* Giving help or support to the main group of workers - **Auxiliary**
* Going in a direction that is away from a group or from the place where one should be **- Stray**
* Going on someone's land without permission - **Trespass**
* Goods that are bought and sold - **Merchandise**
* Government departments that control public money - **Exchequer**
* Great disaster or complete failure - **Debacle**
* Great number of things or people - **Multitude**
* Great work : the greatest achievement of an artist , or a writer - **Magnum opus**
* Groups of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants **- Species**
* Groups of members of the public who listen to the facts of a case in a court and decide whether or not somebody is guilty of a crime **- Jury**
* Groups of military ships commanded by the same person **- Fleet**
* Groups of musicians who play usually classical mt sic together and who are led by a conductor **- orchestra**
* Groups of officials led by an ambassador who represent their government in a foreign country :building in which an embassy works **- embassy**
* Groups of people or businesses that work together **- Syndicate**
* Groups of people who have the same job, interests, etc. **- Fraternity**
* Groups of people who operate a ship, airplane, or train **- Crew**
* Groups of people, companies, etc., that agree to work together **- Consortium**
* Groups of singers or dancers performing together in a supporting role in a musical or opera **- Chorus**
* Groups of vehicles or ships that are travelling together usually for protection -

**Convoy**

* Groups or organization of nations or people united for a purpose **- League**
* Groups within a larger group that have different ideas and opinions than the rest of the group **- Faction**
* Guiding beliefs of a person, group, or organization **- Ethos**
* Happening after death, medical examination of the body of a dead person to determine the cause of death - **Post-mortem**
* Happening as a result of something - **Consequent**
* Happening at the same time - **Concurrent**
* Happening often but not regularly : not constant or steady - **Sporadic**
* Happening or appearing again and again - **Recurrent**
* Happening or popular at a particular time - **Du jour**
* Happening, done, or published after someone's death - **Posthumous**
* Happy and enjoyable scenes or experience - **Idyll**
* Happy and lively in a way that is attractive - **Vivacious**
* Harsh criticisms that show a lack of respect or approval for someone or something - **Scorn**
* Harsh or critical statements about someone - **Obloquy**
* Having (something) as a part, step, or result **- Entail**
* Having a speech problem that causes one to repeat the beginning sound of some words - **Stutter**
* Having a strong and unpleasant smell or taste front no longer being fresh -

**Rancid**

* Having a strong, sharp taste or smell - **Pungent**
* Having a very appealing taste or smell - **Luscious**
* Having a very noticeable quality that attracts a lot of attention **- Flamboyant**
* Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude towards authority or discipline -

**Recalcitrant**

* Having complete or unlimited power - **Omnipotent**
* Having fair hair and a light complexion - **Blonde**
* Having many twists and turns : compliLated. long, and confusing - **Tortuous**
* Having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone -

**Ambivalent**

* Having no legal power - **Nutt**
* Having or relating to two sides affecting both sides, involving two parties, especially countries - **Bilateral**
* Having or showing a desire to hurt someone who has hurt or caused problems for you - **Vindictive**
* Having or showing an ability to understand difficult ideas and situations and to make good decisions - **Sagacious**
* Having or showing courage : very brave or courageous - **valiant**
* Having or showing knowledge that is learned by studying - **erudite**
* Having people of different types or from different countries, and influenced by their culture : showing an interest in different cultures, ideas - **cosmopolitian**
* Having the qualities or appearance considered to be typical of men - **Masculine**
* Having very fixed beliefs and being unlikely or unwilling to change them - **Hardliner**
* Heavy automatic guns that fire shells from an aircraft or tank - **Cannon**
* Height of an object or point in relation to sea level or ground level - **Altitude**
* Helping someone or something pay for the costs of (something) - **Subsidize**
* Highest point in the development of something :a climax or culmination -

**Apogee**

* Highest point of a mountain : the top of a mountain - **Summit**
* History of the family members in a person's or animal's past especially when it is good or impressive - **Pedigree**
* Hitting (someone or something) very hard with a stick, whip, etc - **Thrash**
* Hitting or beating something or someone and make a loud, deep sound -

**Thump**

* Hitting something with a loud, dull sound - **Thud**
* Honor or fame given for some achievement - **Laurel**
* Honor or respect that is felt for or shown to (someone or something) -

**Reverence**

* Hopeful or romantic in a way that is not practical - **Quixotic**
* Humour that shows the weaknesses or bad qualities of a person, government, society, etc. - **Satire**
* Humorous in a clever and often ironic way - **Wry**
* Hundredth anniversary of a significant event - **Centenary**
* Husband's (or wife's) provision for a spouse after separation or divorce : maintenance - **Alimony**
* Ideas about doing something that is far removed from normal reality - **Fantasy**
* Ideas or beliefs that people are born again with a different body after death -

**Reincarnation**

* Ideas or sets of beliefs that guide the actions of a person or group - **Credo**
* Idea or a set of principles or religious beliefs - **Creed**
* Ideas or theories that are not proven but that leads to further study or discussion

**Hypothesis**

* Ideas suggested by a word in addition to its main meaning - **Connotation**
* Ideas or statements that are often false or exaggerated and that are spread in order to help a cause, a political leader, a government, etc. - **Propaganda**
* Ideas or stories that are not true but that many people have heard or read -

**Folklore**

* (Illness) persisting for a long time or constantly recurring - **Chronic**
* Imaginary places in which the government, laws, and social conditions are perfect - **Utopia**
* Impossible to defeat or discourage - **Indomitable**
* Impossible to defeat or overcome **- Invincible**
* Impossible to harm, damage, or defeat - **Invulnerable**
* Impossible 'to solve or get control of : impossible to overcome -

**Insurmountable**

* Impressive display or range of a particular type of thing - **Array**
* In a very bad condition and needing to be repaired - **Ramshackle**
* In a very bad condition because of age or lack of care - **Dilapidated**
* Including many different things : full of variety - **Variegated**
* Increased effectiveness that results when two or more people or businesses work together - **Synergy**
* Independent persons or a body officially appointed to settle a dispute -

**Arbitrator**

* Indirect and usually bad results of an action or event that may happen some time afterwards - **Repercussion**
* Informal ways of spreading information or rumors through conversation -

**Grapevine**

* Information about a person and about what they have done in their life -

**Biodata**

* Inscriptions on a building, statue, or coin - **Epigraph**
* Introduction to a book or speech - **Preface**
* Introduction to a book, play, etc. - **Prologue**
* Involving only one group or country - **Unilateral**
* Jobs, activities, etc., that are very suitable for someone - **Niche**
* Journals or newspapers, especially the official one of .an organization or institution - **Gazette**
* Journeys especially by a group of people for a specific purpose - **Expedition**
* Killing (a person or animal) by squeezing the throat - **Strangle**
* Killing (an animal) for food, kill (many people) in a very violent way -**Slaughter**
* Killing (someone) illegally as punishment for a crime - **Lynch**
* Killing of a large number of people - **Carnage**
* Killing or wounding of people, typically on a large scale during a conflict -

**Bloodshed**

* Kindness shown to somebody when they are being punished : willingness not somebody so severely - **Clemency**
* Knowing everything : having unlimited understanding or knowledge -**omniscient**
* Knowing or using several languages - **Polyglot**
* Lack of agreements between people, ideas, etc - **Discord**
* Lack of order : a confused or messy condition - **Disarray**
* Lack of respect or dislike for someone or something - **Contempt**
* Lack of seriousness - **Levity**
* Lacking confidence : not feeling comfortable around people, very careful about

acting or speaking - **Diffident**

* Language of ordinary speeches rather than formal writing - **Vernacular**
* Language that is intended to influence people and that may not be honest or reasonable - **Rhetoric**
* Language that is used among people who speak various different languages -

**Lingua franca**

* Language used for a particular activity or by a particular group of people -

**Jargon**

* Large amount of money that has been given to a school, hospital, etc., and that is used to pay for its creation and continuing support : person's natural ability or talent - **Endowment**
* Large and very unpleasant amount of dirt **- Filth**
* Large buildings or group of buildings for soldiers to live in **- Barracks**
* Large ,burial ground, especially Qne not in a churchyard **- Cemetery**
* Large cages, buildings, or enclosures for keeping birds in **- Aviary**
* Large group of people - **Throng**
* Large notices or signs put up in a public place or carried by people **- Placard**
* Large number of things that appear or happen in a short period of time **- Spate**
* Large open-air fire used for burning rubbish or as part of a celebration -

**Bonfire**

* Large parties or celebrations - **Fete**
* Large-calibre guns used in warfare on land - **Artillery**
* Lasting for a very short time - **Ephemeral**
* Late morning meals eaten instead of breakfast and lunch - **Brunch**
* Laws or regulations made by a government - **Ordinance**
* Leaving (property) to a person or other beneficiary by a will **- Bequeath**
* Legal agreements in which a person borrows money to buy property (such as a house) and pays back the money over a period of years - **Mortgage**
* Legal right to be the only one to reproduce, publish and sell a book, musical recording, etc., for a certain period of time **- Copyright**
* Letter or group of letters that is added at the beginning of a word to change its meaning - **Prefix**
* Level of respect that people have for a successful person, organization, etc -

**Stature**

* Likely to change in a very sudden or extreme way likely to become dangerous or out of control - **Volatile**
* Limited to a small number of people - **Esoteric**
* Lines in a newspaper naming the writer of an article - **Byline**
* Lines that have a series of short, sharp turns or angles - **Zigzag**
* Lists of items required, things to be done, or points to be considered, used as a reminder - **Checklist**
* Lists of the books referred to in a scholarly work ,typically printed as an appendix - **Bibliography**
* Lists of the foods that may be ordered at a restaurant - **Menu**
* Lists of the people or things that belong to a particular group, team, etc. -

**Roster**

* Lists of the people who work for a company and the amount of money that the company has agreed to pay them - **Payroll**
* Lists that show who must do a certain job - **Rota**
* Lively or energetic quality **- Vitality**
* Living in trees - **Arboreal**
* Long and complicated series of events - **Saga**
* Long and determined efforts to achieve something that one believes to be right or to stop something that one believes to be wrong - **Crusade**
* Long journeys to a distant or unknown place especially over water or through outer space - **voyage**
* Long poems that tell the story of a hero's adventures - **epic**
* Long speeches given by a character in a story, movie, play, etc., or by a performer - **Monologue**
* Long, narrow boxes, typically of wood, in which a dead body is buried or cremated - **Coffin**
* Long, usually serious speeches that a character in a play make to an audience and that reveal the character's thoughts - **Soliloquy**
* Loud and confused noises, strongly expressed **- Clamour**
* Made by combining different substances : not natural **- Synthetic**
* Made or done without preparation **- Impromptu**
* Made to be useful rather than to be decorative or comfortable - **Utilitarian**
* Made to look like an exact copy of something in order to trick people -**Counterfeit**
* Made up of parts that are different **- Heterogeneous**
* Magical liquid that can cure illness or extend life **- Elixir**
* Main characters in a novel, play, movie, etc. **- Protagonist**
* Major changes or a period of change that causes a lot of conflict, confusion, anger, etc. **- Upheaval**
* Make (an idea, belief, etc.) known to many people **- Promulgate**
* Making (someone or something) weaker or less effective usually in a secret or gradual way - **Undermine**
* Making (someone) feel or look young, healthy, or energetic again - **Rejuvenate**
* Making (someone) want to know more about something **- Intrigue**
* Making (something) as good or as effective as possible **- Optimize**
* Managing or using money in a careful or wise way **- Thrifty**
* Many changes or problems that happen over time **- Vicissitude**
* Marks or qualities that shows what something is or what it could be **- Earmark**
* Meals consisting of several dishes from which guests serve themselves **- Buffet**
* Meals to which everyone who is invited brings food to share - **Pot luck**
* Mental illness in which a person becomes very emotional or excited **- Mania**
* Mental states in which one is confused and not able to think or speak clearly : state of wild excitement and great happiness **- Delirium**
* Money or food given to poor people **- Alms**
* Money or property that is given to you by somebody when they die **- Legacy**
* Money that is less than the amount that is needed **- Deficit**
* Money that is owed and should have been paid earlier **- Arrears**
* Money that is paid in order to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped **- Ransom**
* Morally good behavior or character - **Virtue**
* Most important idea or parts of something - **Keynote**
* Moving to a new place **- Relocate**
* Movements away from a place or situation especially because it is dangerous, unpleasant, etc. : place that is quiet and private **- Retreat**
* Mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together **-Camaraderie**
* Mysteries that can only be resolved by assembling various pieces of information - Jigsaw
* Names that someone (such as a writer) uses instead of his or her real name **- Pseudonym**
* Narrow passageways between or behind building **- Alley**
* Natural likings for and understanding of someone or something **- Affinity**
* New activities, projects, business, etc., that typically involve risk **- Venture**
* No longer existing or being used - **Defunct**
* No longer used because something newer exists **- Obsolete**
* Noisy arguments or disagreements, especially in public **- Altercation**
* Not able or willing to believe something **- Incredulous**
* Not able to be corrected or changed able to be stopped or changed - **Inexorable**
* Not able to communicate with other people **- Incommunicado**
* Not as important as something else **- Subsidiary**
* Not capable of life **- Inanimate**
* Not clear in meaning : stated in a way that is general and not specific **- Vague**
* Not completely clear or transparent but clear enough to allow light to pass through **- Translucent**
* Not connected with spiritual or religious matters **- Secular**
* Not deserving serious attention **- Frivolous**
* Not doing or involving much physical activities **- Sedentary**
* Not easily stopped or pulled apart : very determined to do something -**Tenacious**
* Not giving enough thought to other people's feelings or needs **- Inconsiderate**
* Not having or showing good judgment - **Indiscreet**
* Not having or showing good manners, good taste, or politeness **- Vulgar**
* Not intended or planned **- Inadvertent**
* Not interesting, funny, etc., because of being used too often **- Hackneyed**
* Not letting light through : not transparent, difficult to understand of explain -**Opaque**
* Not liking to work or be active **- Indolent**
* Not lively or interesting : dull or boring **- Vapid**
* Not made of physical substances : not able to be touched **- Intangible**
* Not producing the desired effect - **Inefficacious**
* Not very developed or advanced **- Rudimentary**
* Not very easy to see or notice **- Inconspicuous**
* Not willing to tell people about things **- Reticent**
* Number of people who are killed or injured in an accident, disaster, war **- Toll**
* Objects, activities, or ideas that are used as symbols of something else - **Metaphor**
* Of, belonging to, or seeming to come from an early time in the very ancient past **- Primitive**
* (Of a person) not identified by name; of unknown name **- Anonymous**
* Open opposition toward a person or group in authority **- Rebellion**
* Open to more than one interpretation : not having one obvious meaning - **Ambiguous**
* Original copies of a play, book, piece of music, etc., before those have been printed - Manuscript
* Outdoor meals or parties when food is cooked in this way - Barbecue
* Persons who are kept in a prison or mental hospital - **Inmate**
* Persons who are killed or who suffer greatly for a religion, cause, etc. - **Martyr**
* Persons who are not loyal to his or her own country, friends, etc. - **Traitor**
* Persons who are not welcome or wanted in a place - **Intruder**
* Persons who are running away to avoid being captured - **Fugitive**
* Persons who are sent by one government to represent it in dealing with another government - **Envoy**
* Persons who are skilled in magic or who has magical powers : a sorcerer or a magician, a person who is very good at something - **Wizard**
* Persons who are unfairly blamed for something that others have done -**Scapegoat**
* Persons who are very enthusiastic about something - **Fiend**
* Persons who are walking in a city, along a road, etc. - **Pedestrian**
* Persons who know a lot about something (such as art, wine, food, etc.) : an expert in a particular subject - **Connoisseur**
* Persons who lack experience and knowledge - **Greenhorn**
* Parts of checks, tickets, etc., that can be kept as a record when it is torn off **- Counterfoil**
* Parts of theatres, concert halls, etc. in which the audiences sit - **Auditorium**
* Parts of the earth's surface that are directly above the place where an earthquake starts - **Epicenter**
* Parts of your mind that tell you whether your actions are right or wrong - **Conscience**
* Partial or total loss of memory - Amnesia
* Partial refunds to someone who has paid too much for tax, rent, or a utility **- Rebate**
* Particular subjects or issues that are discussed often or repeatedly **- Theme**
* Particular types or categories of literature or art **- Genre**
* Paying money to get a publication or service regularly **- Subscribe**
* People in the future - **Posterity**
* People who are extremely poor - Destitude
* Periods immediately before an action or event – **Run Up**
* Periods of 1,000 years - Millennium
* Periods of temporary economic decline during which trade and industrial activities are reduced - **Recession**
* Periods of time during which someone does not work at his or her regular job and is able to rest, travel, do research, etc. - **Sabbatical**
* Periods of time that are very important in history - **Epoch**
* Periods of time when something (activities or programs) are stopped **-Hiatus**
* Periods when days ending and nights beginning - **Twilight**
* Persons or things regarded as an exact copy of another - **Clone**
* Persons or things that attract a lot of attention or interest - **Cynsoure**
* Persons or things that cause a change - **Catalyst**
* Persons or things that do not go or move as quickly as others **- Laggard**
* Persons or things that are extremely important or large in size – **Colossus**
* Persons or things that are the direct opposite of someone or something else **-Antithesis**
* Persons or things that take the place of someone or something else -**Substitute**
* Persons or things that take the place or perform the duties of someone or something else - **Surrogate**
* Persons who actively oppose or are hostile to someone or something : an adversary - **Antagonist**
* Persons who actively use the Internet especially in a proper and responsible way - **Netizen**
* Qualities of being faithful to one's husband, wife, or sexual partner **- fidelity**
* Qualities of being honest and fair **- integrity**
* Qualities of being very similar or equal **- symmetry**
* Qualities of being very unwilling to spend money **- parsimoney**
* Qualities that causes people to feel sympathy and sadness **- pathos**
* Qualities that makes one person or thing different from another **- trait**
* Quantities of work that should have been done already, but has not yet been done **- backlog**
* Quiet and peaceful **- tranquil**
* Quiet and polite, not showy or flashy **- demure**
* Quotations from or references to a book, paper, or author, especially in a scholarly work - citation
* Raised platforms for a speaker, performer, or the leader of an orchestra **-Podium**
* Raised platforms in a large room or hall that people stand on when performing or speaking to an audience **- Dais**
* Reasons or explanations for something **- Rationale**
* Reasons that you give to hide your real reason for doing something **- Pretext**
* Records of events year by year **- Annals**
* Refers to the fact that something has been done or repeated so often that it has become annoying or tiresome - **Ad nauseam**
* Refusing (something, such as an offer or suggestion) in a rude way **- Rebuff**
* Refusing to be persuaded or to change one's mind **- Adamant**
* Regular, repeated patterns of sounds or movements **- Rhythm**
* Returning to an earlier and usually worse state or condition - **retograde**
* Rich persons who have at least a million dollars, pounds - **millioniaries**
* Rights or benefit that is given to some people and not to others - **privilege**
* Rights or privileges **- prerogative**
* Rights to choose what should be done in a particular situation **- discretion**
* Rights to vote in an election **- suffrage**
* Robots with a human appearance - android
* Rooms in a public building where outdoor clothes or luggage may be left -**clockroom**
* Roughly orquickly thrust (a sharp or pointed object) someone or something - **jab**
* Routine tasks, especially a household one - **chores**
* Rules that say how people should behave - **precept**
* Rules about the proper and polite way to communicate with other people when one is using the Internet - **netiquette**
* Sad moods or feelings - melancholy
* Saying or writing very harsh and critical things about (someone or something) -**vilify**
* Saying that (something) is smaller, less important, etc., than it really is -**understate**
* Saying that something you said or wrote is not true or correct - **retract**
* Searching for something especially by moving and looking through the contents of a place **- rummage**
* Searching through waste, junk, etc., for something that can be saved, used or eaten **- scavenge**
* Secret agreements especially in order to do something dishonest or to trick people - **collusion**
* Secretly try to ruin or destroy a government, political system, etc. **- subvert**
* Sections or tables of subsidiary matter at the end of a book or document **- Appendix**
* Seeming like real life because it is very clear, bright, or detailed, very bright in color **- Vivid**
* Seeming to be seen everywhere **- Ubiquitous**
* Selling (a business, property, etc.) especially to pay off debt **- Liquidate**
* Sending (a person who has been accused of a crime) to another state or country for trial **- Extradite**
* Sending away (some of a company's work) to be done by people outside the company **- Outsource**
* Series of changes - **Flux**
* Series of three novels, movies, etc., that are closely related and involve the same characters or themes - **Trilogy**
* Sets of clothes that are worn together : group of people working together in the same activity - **Outfit**
* Sets of ideas that somebody believes in and tries to persuade others to accept -**Gospel**
* Sets of principles concerned with the nature and appreciation of beauty - **Aesthetics**
* Sets of tools or supplies that a person uses for a particular purpose or activity - **Kit**
* Severe mental or physical pain or suffering - **Anguish**
* Shared by, including or typical of a whole group of things : not specific **- Generic**
* Shiny quality of a surface that reflects light **- Luster**
* Tending to be quiet : not speaking frequently - **Taciturn**
* That can be done : that will be successful **- Viable**
* The last of a series **- Omega**
* The same book or piece of writing as the one that has just been mentioned **-Ibid**
* The thing added to something else as a supplementary rather than an essential part - **Adjunct**
* The thing that existed before or logically precedes another - **Antecedent**
* The thing that hides or covers somebody/something - **Cloak**
* The thing that is inappropriate, especially a remark or expression - **Infelicity**
* The time at which something begins **- Inception**
* The time that something of quality was produced **- Vintage**
* The treatment to improve the appearance and health of the feet or toenails -**Pedicure**
* Theories or a group of ideas about how something should be done, made, or thought about - **Paradigm**
* Use of machines to do work that was previously done by people - **Automation**
* Use of many words where fewer would do, especially in a deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive - **Circumlocution**
* Use of words that mean the opposite of what one really wants to say especially in order to insult someone, to show irritation, or to be funny - **Sarcasm**
* Use of words to exchange thoughts and ideas - **Discourse**
* Used to describe something that exists but that is not officially accepted or recognized - **De facto**
* Used to indicate that a named person is also known or more familiar under another specified name - **Alias**
* Very bad : causing great fear or worry **- Dire**
* Very bad or frightening experience or situation **- Nightmare**
* Very careful about doing something in an extremely accurate and exact way -**Meticulous**
* Very close to being something without actually being it - **Virtual**
* Very comfortable and expensive - **Opulent**
* Very determined or loyal - **Diehard**
* Very different, strange, or unusual - **Exotic**
* Very dirty and unpleasant, immoral or dishonest - **Squalid**
* Very dirty or untidy state or condition - **Mess**
* Very eager or curious to hear or see something - **Agog**
* Very excited or upset - **Overwrought**
* Very famous or successful person - **Luminary**
* Ways of life, an attitude, an idea, etc. that has become very popular, system of religious beliefs and rituals **- Cult**
* Ways of protecting oneself against the loss of something - **Hedge**
* Ways that a room or the inside of a building is decorated **- Decor**
* Ways that prevents other people from finding out who you are - **Incognito**
* Wealthy persons who give money and time to help make life better for other people - **Philanthropist**
* Willing to do dishonest things in return for money - **Venal**
* Wise, skilled, and respected government leaders **- Statesman**
* Women who control a family, group, or government - **Matriarch**
* Women who have control or power over others - **Mistress**
* Women who are paid to care for a young child usually in the child's home - **Nanny**
* Women who are thought to have magic powers - **Witch**
* Women who use their sexual charm to make men do what they wants - **Vamp**
* Young children who are just learning to walk – **toddler**
* Young women who is not married – **damsel**
* Young Person who are usually talented in some way – **prodigy**
* Young person who are taught and helped by someone who has a lot of know-**Prima facie**

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Topic : Words Often Confused**

**Model Questions:**

1. **Use a suitable word from the list and fill the gaps.**

List of commonly confused words:

**A lot:** a considerable quantity or extent (noun)

**Allot:** to assign (verb)

* I have a lot of socks.
* The teacher has allotted 20 minutes for the test.

**Accept:** to receive (verb)

**Except:** excluding (preposition)

* I accept your apology.
* Everyone is going to the store except me.

**Adapt:** to change or to make suitable for a purpose (verb)

**Adopt:** to accept with approval or to take into one’s family (verb)

* The ideal candidate should be able to adapt to change quickly and easily.
* The legislature has yet to adopt the committee’s recommendations.

**Advice:** an opinion or a recommendation about what could or should be done (noun)

**Advise:** to recommend, suggest, or counsel (verb)

* I never asked for your advice.
* His lawyer advised him not to talk.

**Affect:** to influence (verb)

**Effect:** a result (noun)

* The snowstorm has affected the city.
* The effect of the snowstorm is school closings.

**Aisle:** a pathway between rows of seats (noun)

**Ail:** to be sick (verb)

**Isle:** an island (noun)

**I’ll:** “I will” (contraction)

* The bride walked up the aisle with her father.
* Melissa needs to take care of her ailing father.
* We are taking a trip to the British Isles.
* I’ll wash my car tomorrow.

**Allude:** to make an indirect reference to an idea, place, person, or text (verb)

**Elude:** to escape capture or to be incomprehensible (verb)

* Jacob hasn’t even so much as alluded to liking me.
* The bank robber could elude the police for only so long before getting caught.

**Allusion:** a reference to something (noun)

**Illusion:** a false perception of reality (noun)

* The story has an allusion to Arachne, a character from Greek mythology.
* The illusion kept the audience entranced for hours.

**Aloud:** with the speaking voice (adverb)

**Allowed:** permitted (verb)

* The teacher read aloud to her students.
* The teacher allowed her students to read outside.

**Apart:** separate one from another; in pieces or parts (adverb)

**A part:** one piece of a whole (noun)

* Their family was torn apart by the war.
* Henri wants to be a part of our volunteer team.

**Ascent:** an act of rising (noun)

**Assent:** an act of agreeing to something (noun)

* Her ascent into the mountains was tiring.
* Her assent gave us permission to close the deal.

**Assure:** to remove doubt or anxiety (verb)

**Ensure:** to guarantee an event or condition (verb)

**insure:** to protect from financial liability with insurance (verb)

* Lecrae tried to assure Thomas that he knew what he was doing.
* Thomas just wanted to ensure that their undertaking would be successful.
  + Whatever happens, be sure to insure your car before you let them borrow it.

**Award:** to bestow based on merit (verb)

**Reward:** to give wages or recompense (verb)

* + Ryan was awarded a medal for his bravery.
  + Adele rewarded the puppy for his obedience.

**Between:** in the middle of (preposition used when talking about distinct, individual items)

**Among:** in the middle of (preposition used when talking about items that are not distinct)

* + I am stuck between a rock and a hard place.
  + I am among people who understand me.

**Breath:** inhaled or exhaled air (noun)

**Breathe:** to exhale and inhale (verb)

* + The ring was so beautiful that it took my breath away.
  + Ronnie was so excited to see her favorite singer that she forgot to breathe and passed out.

**Capital:** a city serving as a seat of government (noun)

**Capitol:** a building in which a legislative body meets (noun)

* + Austin is the capital of Texas.
  + The U.S. Congress meets at the Capitol.

**Censor:** to forbid the public distribution of a piece of information (verb)

**Censure:** to give a formal rebuke (verb)

**Sensor:** an object that detects stimuli such as heat, light, or movement (noun)

* + The university censored its campus newspaper before it was published.
  + The lawyer was censured due to her improper conduct during the case.
  + The sensor in my smoke detector is very sensitive.

**Cite:** to quote (verb)

**Site:** a position or place (noun)

**Sight:** vision (noun)

* + The essay cites several different authors.
  + Meet me at the construction site.
  + Please get that bug out of my sight.

**Coarse:** rough (adjective)

**Course:** a path (noun)

* + The coarse sand hurts my feet.
  + Kimi ran along the course.

**Conscience:** the sense of moral goodness of one’s conduct, intentions, or character (noun)

**Conscious:** capable of or marked by thought, will, design, or perception (adjective)

* + Rumi had a guilty conscience, so she turned herself in.
  + It was a conscious decision to do the right thing.

**Complement:** to make complete or whole (verb)

**Compliment:** to give praise (verb)

* + The lemon juice complements the flavor of the fish.
  + Danielle complimented John on his courage.

**Counsel:** to advise (verb)

**Council:** an assembly or a group working to legislate or advise (noun)

* + My lawyer counseled me to get the company to sign a contract.
  + The council will meet tonight to elect officers.

**Discreet:** judicious in one’s conduct or speech (adjective)

**Discrete:** separate or distinct (adjective)

* + Try to be discreet when you slip him the note.
  + Cut the brownies into nine discrete pieces.

**Elicit:** to call forth or evoke or to deduce (verb)

**Illicit:** morally wrong or illegal (adjective)

* + Jackie is trying to elicit sympathy because she is in trouble.
  + He said he was arrested for illicit activity.

**Eminent:** of high status or prominent (adjective)

**Imminent:** about to happen, occur, or take place (adjective)

* + Whoever becomes president will hold an eminent position.
  + The destruction of the building seems imminent.

**Farther:** to greater distance or extent (adverb used to express physical distance)

**Further:** to greater distance or extent (adverb used to express advancement to a greater degree, as in time and other concepts)

* + Pamela ran farther than I did.
  + I will further my education by attending college.

**Fewer:** smaller amount (adjective used when referring to something that can be counted)

**Less:** smaller amount or degree (adjective used when referring to something that cannot be counted)

* + I have fewer apples than Daniel.
  + There was less pollution last year.

**Here:** in this place (adverb)

**Hear:** to perceive sounds (verb)

* + When will you get here?
  + I hear the train coming.

**Incidence:** rate, extent, or frequency of occurrence (noun)

**Incident:** a definite and separate occurrence or action (noun)

* + There is a high incidence of robbery in that neighborhood.
  + I’d rather not talk about that incident.

**Its:** belonging to something (adjective)

**It’s:** “it is” or “it has” (contraction)

* + Its weakness is in its legs.
  + It’s going to be a rainy day.

**Knew:** past tense form of “know,” which means to hold information in mind (verb)

**New:** appearing, thought of, or made for the first time (adjective)

* + At two years old, Cathleen already knew her alphabet.
  + Shondra went to the dealership to pick up her new car.

**Lead:** a kind of metal or the graphite in pencils (noun)

**Led:** past tense form of “lead,” which means to guide (verb)

* + My mechanical pencil needs more lead.
  + The dog led me to the injured child.

**Lease:** to rent for money (verb)

**Least:** the smallest amount or degree (adjective)

* + She leased the car.
  + That option will cost the least amount of money.

**Lose:** to fail to keep or maintain (verb)

**Loose:** not tight or secure (adjective)

* + Do not lose this expensive bracelet.
  + This bracelet is loose on me.

**Passed:** the past tense form of “pass,” which means to undergo a test or a course of study successfully (verb)

**Past:** having taken place in a period before the present (adjective)

* + Raj barely passed his algebra class.
  + Don’t judge me by my past mistakes.

**Patience:** the quality of being patient (noun)

**Patients:** the plural form of “patient” (noun)

* + Daryl is testing my patience.
  + The patients had to reschedule their appointments.

**Poor:** lacking resources (adjective)

**Pore:** to gaze intently or to read or study attentively (verb)

* + Carly has always desired to care for those who are poor.
  + Roman pored over the contract trying to find a loophole.

**Precede:** to go before or to introduce (verb)

**Proceed:** to move forward or to continue an action or process (verb)

* + His reputation preceded him.
  + We must proceed with the ceremony.

**Principal:** a head of a school or organization (noun)

**Principle:** a basic law or truth (noun)

* + The principal will make an important announcement this morning.
  + A principle of healthy eating is to eat fresh and natural foods.

**Quiet:** an absence of noise or activity (noun)

**Quite:** to a degree or to an extent (adverb)

* + I enjoyed the peace and quiet.
  + The strawberries were quite delicious.

**Stationary:** fixed or unchanging (adjective)

**Stationery:** paper used for writing (noun)

* + A stationary bike allows people to watch television while exercising.
  + Cindy likes to use unique stationery for her letters.

**There:** belonging to them (adjective) **there:** in or to that place (adverb)

**They’re:** “they are” (contraction)

* + Their house is impressive.
  + I will walk there.
  + They’re working hard to meet this deadline.

**Then:** after that (adverb)

**Than:** (preposition used in comparisons)

* + Andy passed the football to Edward and then ran to the end zone.
  + Andy runs faster than Edward.

**Through:** into or out of (preposition)

**Threw:** past tense form of “throw” (verb)

* + The ball went through the hoop on her first try.
  + She threw the ball as hard as she could.

**To:** (preposition)

**Too:** very or also (adverb)

**Two:** 2 (noun)

* + They both rushed to the door.
  + Amelia was too tired.
  + There are two apples left.

**Wear:** to have something on; to damage something by using or rubbing (verb)

**Where:** in or to what place (adverb)

**Ware:** a manufactured article or product; goods (noun)

* + The weather is wearing away at the bridge.
  + Where is my favorite mug?
  + The artist peddled his wares door to door.

**Which:** (pronoun used to refer to things in nonrestrictive or nonessential clauses)

**That:** (pronoun used to refer to things in restrictive or essential clauses)

**Who:** (pronoun used to refer to a person or people)

**Whom:** (pronoun used to refer to a person or people when it functions as an object of a verb or preposition in the sentence)

* + We have the meeting this Wednesday, which is my birthday.
  + The television that Stacey broke will cost $2,000 to replace.
  + Tamara, who won the award last year, will be a presenter.
  + With whom will you be going to the dance?

**Whole:** total, all, or complete (adjective)

**Hole:** an opening or a hollowed-out place (noun)

* + Billy ate the whole cake.
  + There is a hole in my jeans.

**Whose:** belonging to who or which (pronoun)

**Who’s:** “who is” or “who has” (contraction)

* + Whose phone is ringing?
  + Who’s at the door?

**Write:** to put words on paper (verb)

**Rite:** a ceremonial act (noun)

* + I need to write an essay for my history class.
  + The initiation rites are simple to perform.

**Your:** belonging to you (adjective)

**You’re:** “you are” (contraction)

* + Your essay was entertaining to read.
  + You’re hilarious.

**Sample Worksheet on Words Often Confused**

**Complete the following sentences by selecting the correct word.**

1. My little cousin turns \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(to, too, two) years old tomorrow.
2. The next-door neighbor’s dog is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(quite, quiet, quit) loud. He barks constantly throughout the night.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Your, You’re) mother called this morning to talk about the party.
4. I would rather eat a slice of chocolate cake \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(than, then) eat a chocolate muffin.
5. Do you have any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(loose, lose) change to pay the parking meter?

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Topic: Synonyms and Antonyms Used in the Everyday Contexts**

**Model Questions:**

1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate synonyms.
2. What are synonyms? Explain with examples.
3. What are antonyms? Explain with example.
4. Write two synonyms for the given words.
5. Write two antonyms for the given words.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Synonyms And Antonyms List** | | |
| **Words** | **Synonyms – Same Meaning** | **Antonyms – Opposites** |
| Abate | Moderate, decrease | Aggravate |
| Adhere | Comply, observe | Condemn, disjoin |
| Abolish | Abrogate, annul | Setup, establish |
| Acumen | Awareness, brilliance | Stupidity, ignorance |
| Abash | Disconcert, rattle | Uphold, Discompose |
| Absolve | Pardon, forgive | Compel, Accuse |
| Abjure | Forsake, renounce | Approve, Sanction |
| Abject | Despicable, servile | Commendable, Praiseworthy |
| Abound | Flourish, proliferate | Deficient, Destitute |
| Abortive | Vain, unproductive | Productive |
| Acrimony | Harshness, bitterness | Courtesy, Benevolence |
| Accord | Agreement, harmony | Discord |
| Adjunct | Joined, Added | Separated, Subtracted |
| Adversity | Misfortune, calamity | Prosperity, Fortune |
| Adherent | Follower, disciple | Rival, Adversary |
| Adamant | Stubborn, inflexible | Flexible, Soft |
| Admonish | Counsel, reprove | Approve, Applaud |
| Allay | Pacify, soothe | Aggravate, Excite |
| Alien | Foreigner, outsider | Native, Resident |
| Ascend | Climb Escalate | Descend, Decline |
| Alleviate | Abate, relieve | Aggravate, Enhance |
| Allure | Entice, fascinate | Repulse, Repel |
| Arraign | Incriminate, indict | Exculpate, Pardon |
| Amplify | Augment, deepen | Lessen, Contract |
| Axiom | Adage, truism | Absurdity, Blunder |
| Audacity | Boldness, Courage | Mildness, Cowardice |
| Authentic | Accurate, credible | Fictitious, unreal |
| Awkward | Rude, blundering | Adroit, clever |
| Barbarous | Frustrate, perplex | Civilized |
| Bleak | Grim, Austere | Bright, Pleasant |
| Bewitching | Alluring, charming | Repulsive, Repugnant |
| Baroque | Florid, gilt | Plain, unadorned |
| Brittle | Breakable, crisp | Tough, Enduring |
| Barrier | Barricade, Obstacle | Link, Assistance |
| Baffle | Astound, Faze | Facilitate, Clarify |
| Bustle | Commotion, Tumult | Slowness, Quiet |
| Barren | Desolate, Sterile | Damp, Fertile |
| Bawdy | Erotic, Coarse | Decent, Moral |
| Bind | Predicament | Release |
| Batty | Insane, silly | Sane |
| Benevolent | Benign, Generous | Malevolent, Miserly |
| Befogged | Becloud, Dim | Clear headed, Uncloud |
| Base | Vulgar, Coarse | Summit, Noble |
| Benign | Favorable, friendly | Malignant, Cruel |
| Busy | Active, Engaged | Idle, Lazy |
| Bleak | Austere, Blank | Bright, Cheerful |
| Bold | Adventurous | Timid |
| Boisterous | Clamorous, rowdy | Placid, Calm |
| Blunt | Dull, Insensitive | Keen, Sharp |
| Callous | obdurate, unfeeling | Compassionate, Tender |
| Capable | competent, able | Incompetent, Inept |
| Calamity | adversity, misfortune | Fortune |
| Calculating | Canny, Devious | Artless, honest |
| Calumny | defamation, aspersion | Commendation, Praise |
| Captivity | imprisonment, confinement | Freedom, Liberty |
| Captivate | Charm, fascinate | Disillusion offend |
| Chaste | virtuous, pure | Sullied, Lustful |
| Cease | terminate, desist | Begin, Originate |
| Compassion | kindness, sympathy | Cruelty, Barbarity |
| Chastise | punish, admonish | Cheer, encourage |
| Concede | yield, permit | Deny, reject |
| Comprise | include, contain | Reject, lack |
| Consent | agree, permit | Object Disagree |
| Concur | approve, agree | Differ, disagree |
| Consolidate | solidify, strengthen | Separate, Weaken |
| Consequence | effect, outcome | Origin, Start |
| Contempt | scorn, disregard | Regard, Praise |
| Conspicuous | prominent, obvious | Concealed, hidden |
| Contrary | dissimilar, conflicting | Similar, Alike |
| Contradict | deny, oppose | Approve, Confirm |
| Callous | Insensitive, indurated | Kind, merciful |
| Calm | Harmonious, unruffled | Stormy, turbulent |
| Candid | Blunt, bluff | Evasive |
| Camouflage | Cloak, disguise | Reveal |
| Carnal | Earthly, fleshly | Spiritual |
| Captivate | Beguile, bewitch | Repel |
| Celebrated | Acclaimed, lionized | Unknown, Inglorious |
| Catholic | Generic, liberal | Narrow- minded |
| Censure | Rebuke, reprimand | Praise, Acceptance |
| Cement | Plaster, mortar | Disintegrate |
| Clandestine | Covert, furtive | Open, Legal |
| Cheap | Competitive, Inexpensive | Dear, unreasonable |
| Coarse | Bawdy, Boorish | Fine, Chaste |
| Classic | Simple, Typical | Romantic, Unusual |
| Compact | Bunched, thick | Loose, Diffuse |
| Comic | Clown, Jester | Tragic, tragedian |
| Conceit | Egotism, Immodesty | Modesty |
| Compress | Abbreviate, Shrink | Amplify, Expand |
| Condemn | Castigate, Chide | Approve, Praise |
| Concord | Agreement, accord | Discord |
| Consolidate | Centralize, Fortify | Weaken |
| Confident | Bold, Undaunted | Diffident, cowardly |
| Creation | Formation, foundation | Destruction |
| Courtesy | Generosity, Reverence | Disdain, Rudeness |
| Cunning | Acute, Smart | Naive, Coarse |
| Decipher | interpret, reveal | Misinterpret, distort |
| Decay | Collapse, decompose | Flourish, Progress |
| Deceit | deception, artifice | Veracity, Sincerity |
| Defray | spend, pay | Disclaim, Repudiate |
| Defile | contaminate, pollute | Purify, sanctity |
| Demolish | Ruin, devastate | Repair, construct |
| Deliberate | cautious, intentional | Rash, Sudden |
| Deride | mock, taunt | Inspire, Encourage |
| Deprive | despoil, divest | Restore, Renew |
| Dissuade | Remonstrate, Counsel | Insite, Persuade |
| Disdain | detest, despise | Approve, praise |
| Dense | Opaque, piled | Sparse, brainy |
| Denounce | Blame, boycott | Defend |
| Despair | Depression, misery | Contentment, Hope |
| Derogatory | Sarcastic, critical | Laudatory, appreciative |
| Docile | Pliable, pliant | Headstrong, obstinate |
| Destructive | Catastrophic, pernicious | Creative, Constructive |
| Dwarf | Diminutive, Petite | Huge, Giant |
| Eclipse | Diminution, Dimming | Shine, eclipse |
| Eager | Keen, acquisitive | Indifferent, apathetic |
| Ecstasy | delight, exultation | Despair, Calamity |
| Eccentric | strange, abnormal | Natural, Conventional |
| Encumbrance | hindrance, obstacle | Incentive, stimulant |
| Efface | destroy, obliterate | Retain, Maintain |
| Eloquence | expression, fluency | Halting, Stammering |
| Enormous | colossal, mammoth | Diminutive, negligible |
| Endeavour | undertake, aspire | Cease, quit |
| Equivocal | uncertain, hazy | Obvious, lucid |
| Epitome | precise, example | Increment, expansion |
| Eradicate | destroy, exterminate | Secure, plant |
| Fallacy | delusion, mistake | Veracity, Truth |
| Fabricate | construct, produce | Destroy, Dismantle |
| Fanatical | narrow-minded, biased | Liberal, Tolerant |
| Falter | stumble, demur | Persist, Endure |
| Ferocious | cruel, fierce | Gentle, Sympathetic |
| Feeble | weak, frail | Strong, Robust |
| Fluctuate | deflect, vacillate | Stabilize, resolve |
| Feud | strife, quarrel | Harmony, fraternity |
| Fragile | weak, infirm | Enduring, Tough |
| Forsake | desert, renounce | Hold, maintain |
| Frivolous | petty, worthless | Solemn, significant |
| Frantic | violent, agitated | Subdued, gentle |
| Frugality | economy, providence | Lavishness, extravagance |
| Gloom | obscurity, darkness | Delight, mirth |
| Gather | Converge, huddle | Disperse, Dissemble |
| Gorgeous | magnificent, dazzling | Dull, unpretentious |
| Glut | stuff, satiate | Starve, abstain |
| Grisly | disgusting, atrocious | Pleasing, attractive |
| Gracious | courteous, beneficent | Rude, Unforgiving |
| Guile | cunning, deceit | Honesty, frankness |
| Grudge | hatred, aversion | Benevolence, Affection |
| Genuine | Absolute, Factual | Spurious |
| Generosity | Altruism, bounty | Stinginess, greed |
| Glory | Dignity, renown | Shame, Disgrace |
| Gloomy | Bleak, cloudy | Gay, Bright |
| Harass | irritate, molest | Assist, comfort |
| Hamper | retard, prevent | Promote, facilitate |
| Hazard | Peril, danger | Conviction, security |
| Hapless | unfortunate, ill-fated | Fortunate, Lucky |
| Haughty | arrogant, pompous | Humble, Submissive |
| Hideous | frightful, shocking | Attractive, alluring |
| Heretic | non-conformist, secularist | Conformable, religious |
| Harmony | Conformity, Amicability | Discord, discord |
| Hamstrung | Cripple Debilitate | Strengthen, Encourage |
| Honor | Adoration, Reverence | Denunciation, Shame |
| Hasty | Abrupt, Impetuous | Leisurely, Cautious |
| Humility | Resignation, Fawning | Boldness, Pride |
| Humble | Meek, Timid | Proud, Assertive |
| Impenitent | Uncontrite, Obdurate | Repentant |
| Hypocrisy | Deception, Pharisaism | Sincerity, frankness |
| Indifferent | Equitable, Haughty | Partial, Biased |
| Impulsive | Flaky, Impetuous | Cautious, Deliberate |
| Infernal | Damned, Accursed | Heavenly, |
| Indigent | Destitute, Impoverished | Rich, Affluent |
| Interesting | Enchanting, Riveting | Dull, Uninteresting |
| Insipid | Tedious, Prosaic | Pleasing, appetizing |
| Immense | huge, enormous | Puny, Insignificant |
| Immaculate | unsullied, spotless | Defiled, Tarnished |
| Imminent | impending, brewing | Distant, Receding |
| Immerse | submerge, involve | Emerge, uncover |
| Impair | diminish, deteriorate | Restore, Revive |
| Immunity | prerogative, privilege | Blame, Censure |
| Impediment | hurdle, obstruction | Assistant, Concurrence |
| Impartial | just, unbiased | Prejudiced, Biased |
| Impute | attribute, ascribe | Exculpate, support |
| Impious | irreligious, unholy | Pious, Devout |
| Incompetent | inefficient, unskilled | Dexterous, Skilled |
| Inclination | disposition, affection | Indifference, Disinclination |
| Inevitable | unavoidable, ascertained | Unlikely, Doubtful |
| Incongruous | inappropriate, absurd | Compatible, harmonious |
| Ingenuous | undisguised, naive | Wily, Craftly |
| Infringe | violate, encroach | Comply, Concur |
| Insipid | tasteless, vapid | Delicious, luscious |
| Insinuate | allude, hint | Conceal, Camouflage |
| Instill | inculcate, inject | Eradicate, extract |
| Insolvent | indigent, destitute | Wealthy, solvent |
| Intrigue | scheme, conspiracy | Candor, Sincerity |
| Intricate | tangled, complicated | Regulated, Orderly |
| Invective | accusation, censure | Approval, acclamation |
| Intrinsic | genuine, fundamental | Extraneous, incidental |
| Immaculate | Exquisite, Impeccable | Defiled, Tarnished |
| Invincible | unconquerable, impregnable | Effeminate, languid |
| Irrepressible | irresistible, unconfined | Composed, hesitant |
| Jejune | dull, boring | Interesting, exciting |
| Jaded | tired, exhausted | Renewed, recreated |
| Jubilant | rejoicing, triumphant | Melancholy, depressing |
| Jovial | frolicsome, cheerful | Solemn, morose |
| Just | honest, impartial | Unequal, unfair |
| Judicious | thoughtful, prudent | Irrational, foolish |
| Juvenile | young, tender | Dotage, antiquated |
| Justify | defend, exculpate | Impute, arraign |
| Knave | dishonest, scoundrel | Paragon, innocent |
| Knotty | complicated difficult | Simple, manageable |
| Kindred | relation, species | Unrelated, dissimilar |
| Keen | sharp, poignant | Vapid, insipid |
| Knell | death knell, last blow | Reconstruction, rediscovery |
| Lax | slack, careless | Firm, reliable |
| Lavish | abundant, excessive | Scarce, deficient |
| Liable | accountable, bound | Unaccountable, apt to |
| Lenient | compassionate, merciful | Cruel, severe |
| Lucid | sound, rational | Obscure, hidden |
| Lure | attract, entice | Repel, dissuade |
| Linger | loiter, prolong | Hasten, quicken |
| Liberal | magnanimous, generous | Stingy, malicious |
| Lunacy | delusion, insanity | Normalcy, sanity |
| Luxuriant | profuse, abundant | Scanty, meagre |
| Luscious | palatable, delicious | Unsavory, tart |
| Languid | Sluggish, apathetic | Energetic, spirited |
| Mandatory | Imperative, requisite | Optional |
| Malice | Vengefulness, grudge | Goodwill, Kindness |
| Merit | Stature, Asset | Demerit, dishonour |
| Masculine | Gallant, strapping | Feminine, meek |
| Mitigate | alleviate, relieve | Augment enhance |
| Miraculous | marvelous, extraordinary | Ordinary, trivial |
| Molest | harass, tease | Console, soothe |
| Modest | humble, courteous | Arrogant, pompous |
| Momentous | notable, eventful | Trivial, insignificant |
| Mollify | appease, assuage | Irritate, infuriate |
| Morbid | Nasty, Macabre | Healthy, Cheerful |
| Monotonous | irksome, tedious | Varied, pleasant |
| Murky | dusky, dreary | Bright, shining |
| Munificent | liberal, hospitable | Frugal, penurious |
| Mutual | joint, identical | Separate, distinct |
| Mutinous | recalcitrant, insurgent | Submissive, faithful |
| Nimble | prompt, brisk | Sluggish, languid |
| Niggardly | miser, covetous | Generous, profuse |
| Noxious | baneful, injurious | Healing, profitable |
| Notion | Conceit, Apprehension | Reality, Concrete |
| Novice | tyro, beginner | Veteran, ingenious |
| Nonchalant | indifferent, negligent | Attentive, considerate |
| Nullify | cancel, annual | Confirm, Uphold |
| Numerous | profuse, various | Scarce, deficient |
| Obliging | Complaisant, Willing | Mulish, Obstinate |
| Obstruct | impede, prevent | Hasten, encourage |
| Obstinate | Stubborn, Adamant | Pliable, flexible |
| Obscure | Arcane, Vague | Prominent |
| Obvious | Evident, apparent | Obscure, ambiguous |
| Obtain | Access, Inherit | Forfeit |
| Offensive | Abhorrent, obnoxious | Engaging, fascinating |
| Odious | Malevolent, obnoxious | Engaging, fascinating |
| Offspring | descendant, sibling | Ancestor, forefather |
| Occult | latent, ambiguous | Intelligible, transparent |
| Opaque | obscure, shady | Transparent, bright |
| Ominous | Menacing, Foreboding | Auspicious |
| Oracular | cryptic, vague | Lucid, distinct |
| Optimist | Idealist | Pessimist |
| Ornamental | decorative, adorned | Unseemly, plain |
| Ordain | Order, impose | Revoke abolish |
| Outrage | offence, maltreatment | Praise, favour |
| Outbreak | eruption, insurrection | Compliance, subjection |
| Persuade | Cajole, Impress | Dissuade, halt |
| Pacify | Appease, Chasten | Irritate, worsen |
| Propagate | Inseminate, fecundate | Suppress, deplete |
| Perturbed | Flustered, anxious | Calm |
| Prompt | Precise, Punctual | Slow, Negligent |
| Progress | Pace, Betterment | Retrogress, worsening |
| Pamper | Flatter, indulge | Deny, disparage |
| Prudence | Vigilance, Discretion | Indiscretion |
| Peerless | matchless, unrivalled | Mediocre, commonplace |
| Paramount | foremost, eminent | Trivial, inferior |
| Pertness | flippancy, impudence | Modesty, diffidence |
| Peevish | perverse, sullen | Suave, amiable |
| Placid | tranquil, calm | Turbulent, hostile |
| Perverse | petulant, obstinate | Complacent, docile |
| Precarious | doubtful, insecure | Assured |
| Pompous | haughty, arrogant | Unpretentious, humble |
| Predicament | plight, dilemma | Resolution, confidence |
| Quaint | Queer, strange | Familiar, usual |
| Quack | Impostor, deceiver | Upright, unfeigned |
| Quell | subdue, reduce | Exacerbate, agitate |
| Quarantine | seclude, screen | Befriend, socialize |
| Quibble | equivocate, prevaricate | Unfeigned, plain |
| Rapidity | Quickness, Velocity | Inertia, lanquidity |
| Raid | Incursion, Foray | Retreat, release |
| Rebellious | Restless, attacking | Submissive, Compliant |
| Reason | Acumen, Bounds | Folly, Speculation |
| Reluctant | Cautious, Averse | anxious, Eager |
| Rectify | Amend, Remedy | Falsify, Worsen |
| Ravage | Destroy, ruin | Reconstruct, renovate |
| Remnant | Residue, piece | Entire, whole |
| Ratify | consent, approve | Deny, dissent |
| Restrain | Detain, Confine | Incite |
| Redeem | Recover, liberate | Conserve lose |
| Remorse | Regret, penitence | Ruthlessness, obduracy |
| Remonstrate | Censure, protest | Agree, loud |
| Resentment | Displeasure, wrath | Content, Cheer |
| Rescind | Annul, abrogate | Delegate, permit |
| Reverence | Respect, esteem | Disrespect, affront |
| Retract | Recant, withdraw | Confirm, assert |
| Rustic | Rural, uncivilized | Cultured, Refined |
| Rout | Vanquish, overthrow | Succumb, withdraw |
| Ruthless | Remorseless, inhumane | Compassionate, lenient |
| Savage | Wild, untamed | Polished, Civilized |
| Sacred | Cherish, Divine | Ungodly, Profane |
| Steep | Course, lofty | Flat, gradual |
| Startled | Frightened, Shocked | Waveringly |
| Sublime | Magnificent, eminent | Ridiculous |
| Stranger | Immigrant, guest | Acquaintance, national |
| Sympathy | Tenderness, harmony | Antipathy, Discord |
| Succinct | Concise, Terse | Lengthy, polite |
| Sarcastic | Ironical, derisive | Courteous, gracious |
| System | Scheme, Entity | Chaos, Disorder |
| Shrewd | Cunning, craftly | Simple, imbecile |
| Saucy | Impudent, insolent | Modest, humble |
| Servile | Slavish, Docile | Aggressive, Dominant |
| Scanty | scarce, insufficient | Lavish, multitude |
| Slander | defame, malign | Applaud, approve |
| Shabby | miserable, impoverished | Prosperous, thriving |
| Solicit | entreat, implore | Protest oppose |
| Sneer | mock, scorn | Flatter, praise |
| Stain | blemish, tarnish | Honor, purify |
| Subterfuge | Deceit, Stratagem | Frankness, Openness |
| Sporadic | intermittent, scattered | Incessant, frequent |
| Spurious | Fake, Counterfeit | Genuine, Authentic |
| Squalid | dirty, filthy | Tidy, Attractive |
| Spry | Nimble, Brisk | Lethargic, Sluggish |
| Sterile | Barren, Impotent | Profitable, Potent |
| Successful | Propitious, Felicitous | Destitute, Untoward |
| Subsequent | consequent, following | Preceding, previous |
| Stupor | lethargy, unconsciousness | Sensibility, Consciousness |
| Subvert | Demolish, sabotage | Generate, organize |
| Substantial | Considerable, solid | Tenuous, fragile |
| Sycophant | Parasite, flatterer | Devoted, loyal |
| Superficial | Partial, shallow | Profound, discerning |
| Taciturn | Reserved, silent | Talkative, extrovert |
| Taboo | Prohibit, ban | Permit, consent |
| Temperate | Cool, moderate | Boisterous, violent |
| Tedious | Wearisome. Irksome | Exhilarating, lively |
| Tenacious | Stubborn, Dodge | Docile, non- resinous |
| Tenement | Apartment, Digs | Breakeven, dislodge |
| Timid | Diffident, coward | Bold, intrepid |
| Throng | Assembly, crowd | Dispersion, sparsity |
| Transient | Temporal, transitory | Lasting, enduring |
| Tranquil | Peaceful, composed | Violent, furious |
| Treacherous | Dishonest, duplicitous | Forthright, reliable |
| Trenchant | Assertive, forceful | Feeble, ambiguous |
| Tumultuous | Violent, riotous | Peaceful, harmonious |
| Trivial | Trifling, insignificant | Significant, veteran |
| Tame | Compliant, Subdued | Wild, untamed |
| Tyro | Beginner, riotous | Proficient, veteran |
| Thick | Chunky, massive | Thin, attenuated |
| Terse | Incisive, Compact | Diffuse, Gentle |
| Tranquil | Amicable, Calm | Agitated, Fierce |
| Thrifty | Frugal, prudent | Extravagant |
| Tremble | Vibrate | Steady |
| Transparent | Diaphanous | Opaque |
| Utterly | Completely, entirely | Deficiently, incomplete |
| Uncouth | Awkward, ungraceful | Elegant, Compensate |
| Uncouth | Boorish, Clownish | Elegant, Compensate |
| Umbrage | Chagrin, offense | Sympathy, goodwill |
| Urge | Incite, Implore | Abhorrence, Abomination |
| Urchin | Foundling, Orphan | Creep, Knave |
| Vagrant | Wander, roaming | Steady, settled |
| Vain | Arrogant, egoistic | Modest |
| Vanity | Conceit, pretension | Modesty, Humility |
| Valor | Bravery, prowess | Fear, cowardice |
| Venom | Poison, malevolence | Antidote, Benevolent |
| Venerable | Esteemed, honored | Unworthy, immature |
| Vicious | Corrupt, obnoxious | Noble, Virtuous |
| Veteran | Ingenious, experienced | Novice, tyro |
| Vivacious | Spirited, Energetic | Dispirited, Unattractive |
| Vigilant | Cautious, alert | Careless, negligent |
| Vouch | Confirm, consent | Repudiate, prohibit |
| Vilify | Malign, Slur, Defame | Cherish, Commend |
| Vivid | Eloquent, lucid | Dull, Dim |
| Virtue | Ethic, morality | Vice, dishonesty |
| Wan | Pale, faded | Bright, healthy |
| Waive | Relinquish, remove | Impose, Clamp |
| Wary | cautious, circumspect | Heedless, negligent |
| Wane | Decline, Dwindle | Ameliorate, Rise |
| Wicked | vicious, immoral | Virtuous, Noble |
| Wed | marry, combine | Divorce, Separate |
| Wile | Trickery, Artifice | Naivety, honor |
| Wield | Exert, employ | Forgo, avoid |
| Wilt | wither, perish | Revive, bloom |
| Winsome | Beautiful, Comely | Alluring, Rapturous |
| Yield | surrender abdicate | Resist, protest |
| Yell | shout, shriek | Whisper muted |
| Yoke | connect, harness | Liberate, Release |
| Yearn | languish, crave | Content, satisfy |
| Zenith | summit, apex | Nadir, base |
| Zeal | eagerness, fervor | Apathy, lethargy |
| Zig -zag | oblique, wayward | Straight, unbent |
| Zest | delight, enthusiasm | Disgust, passive |

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Topic: Using prior knowledge to determine the correct word for the context / Discovering the correct**

**word in the sentence by looking at the surrounding words**

**How to Use Context to Determine the Meaning of Words**

English is one of those languages in which many words have more than one meaning. In this lesson, we will learn how to use context to know which meaning a word is using within a sentence.

**The Importance of Context**

Like many languages, English is filled with words that have more than one meaning, which are usually referred to as homographs. Or, even more confusing, we have words that are heteronyms.

**For instance, what comes to mind when you see the letters t-e-a-r?**

Your mind immediately makes a decision on how this word is pronounced and what it means. However, you can't possibly know what this word truly is meant to be without the proper context. The words around it let you know if someone is ripping a piece of paper in two, running fast down a hall, or having a good cry. It is only definable by the words that surround it.

Merriam-Webster defines context as the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can shed light on its meaning. Context allows us to know what it 'is' and what it isn't. Context is powerful, which is why people get so offended when they feel their words have been taken 'out of context'. They understand that words, sentences, passages can mean a lot of different things.

Reading comprehension cannot fully happen without proper context. Let's go back to our letters t-e-a-r to examine context a little more closely. Let's walk our way through the following sentence:

**In her tear down the hall, she shed a tear because of a tear on her dress.**

When you read through the sentence the first time, you might be able to figure out the proper definition and pronunciation of the word t-e-a-r in each instance it's used, but let's be systematic in our approach nonetheless.

**Steps To Determine Meaning From Context:**

Here are four simple steps for determining the meaning from context when dealing with words that can have more than one meaning.

**Step 1:** Look at the words that surround your target word.

**Step 2:** Think about each possible definition for your target word.

**Step 3:** Substitute a different word with the same meaning - a synonym - of each possible definition of your target word. If you end up with a tie, go for antonyms (words with the opposite meaning) and see if what results make any sense or is in a totally different ballpark.

**Step 4:** Using what you discovered in Step 3, choose the pronunciation and definition of your target word that creates the best fit for the context in which your target word is being used.

So, let's walk our way through the first time we see the word t-e-a-r in our target sentence.

In her tear down the hall, she shed a tear because of a tear in her dress.

**Step 1:** The words preceding the first t-e-a-r are 'in her,' and the following words are 'down the hall.'

**Step 2:** T-e-a-r can mean 'run quickly,' it can mean 'cry,' or it can mean 'to rip.'

**Step 3:** 'In her quick run down the hall.' OK, that's a possibility. 'In her cry down the hall.' Hmm, let's see. 'In her

rip down the hall.'

It seems that the only substitution that makes the most sense is 'a quick run.' So we are confident in saying this first use of the word t-e-a-r is referring to tear, meaning 'a quick run down the hall.' So, what you can do is go through these same steps for the second and third use of our target word, t-e-a-r, in the sentence.

**Using Multiple Meanings Intentionally**

When reading works, there are times when the author chooses a word that has more than one meaning intentionally. The author doesn't necessarily want you to choose just one meaning for the word, but to embrace multiple meanings of the word. This is often used in religious writing, philosophical writing, dramatic writing, comedic writing, and social and political commentary. Of course, multiple meaning isn't limited to these categories; it's just when it's found more often than not.

**Let's take a look at this:**

It has been a very trying time for all, but especially for me. As I looked out the window, I realized just how **dark** and how **cold** everything was around me. I wondered when the light would come and if it would also drive away the **cold** in addition to the dark.

In this passage the word **'dark'** can be used to describe the **blackness of night**, but equally fitting would be other definitions of **dark**, including **grim and depressing** as well as **secret, closed, remote, or void of understanding**. In fact, the author may want you to consider all of these definitions when reading the word **'dark'** in the passage. The same can be said for the word **'cold.'** While your first response would be to utilize the definition **concerning temperature**, the author could very well want you to take into account the additional meanings of a **lack of warmth and human emotion** as well as **giving the appearance of being dead**.

Remember: context helps you understand the truth of what the author was trying to portray in the words that they used. You must know context to comprehend a work - no matter how short that work might be. Without context there is no meaning. You also want to consider context in your own writing. Only use words with multiple meanings if it is absolutely necessary. If it is necessary, make sure you put enough words around it that will guide the reader to define that word in the proper way.

Lesson Summary

Now, let's recap what we've learned. First, context is defined as the parts that surround a word or passage in a discourse, and can shed light on its meaning. You must know the context to fully understand any work that you are reading. There are four steps you can use to discover the proper context in which a word or passage should be taken. Those steps are:

1) Look at the words surrounding your target word.

2) Consider each of the possible definitions of your target word.

3) Substitute synonyms into the passage and see which ones fit well, and if they have a tie, you can go on to antonyms.

4) Choose the definition that fits best within the passage.

Also remember, there are some works in which multiple meaning should be considered; you don't choose just one definition, you apply all those that fit for the word. And when it comes to your own writing, try to use words whose meanings will be easily clear for the reader. If you must use a word with multiple meanings, make sure you surround it with enough helpful context so that the proper meaning will be easily deduced by your audience. And, of course, you have to understand your audience to know what words should really be used.

Remember - context is everything. Without context, writing has very little meaning.

**Sample Worksheet for Contextual Clues**

**Read each question carefully answer the questions. The word you are defining may be in bold, underlined or both.**

1. No matter where you go, the Internet is following you. Almost every portable device is being made with an Internet connection. Most new TVs and many other appliances come with Internet connections as well. The Internet is truly **ubiquitous.**

If something is ubiquitous, \_\_ \_.

a. it is fuzzy and will bite you

b. it is everywhere

c. it costs too much money

d. it causes rashes

2. Speaking rudely to the judges was rash behavior. You really hurt your chances of winning! In the above context, what does **“rash”** mean?

a. an itchy skin condition

b. funny

c. trying to hide or disguise a piece of cheese

d. with little thought or consideration

3. Some people are always bashing the president just like others bashed the one before him. Wouldn't you think

that everyone could find something to praise him for, at least once in a while?

What does “bashing” mean in the above selection?

a. hitting hard with a heavy tool

b. going to too many expensive parties

c. speaking or writing harshly about

d. voting for a different candidate

4. Wherever he goes, the esteemed Dr. Sanchez is applauded for his life saving research. What does “esteemed”

mean?

a. held over boiling water

b. very old

c. unable to chew gum

d. greatly admired

5.I believe that if you lower taxes so that people can keep more of the money they earn, it will be an incentive

for them to work harder. What is the meaning of “incentive”? \_ .

a. a reason to do something

b. a small amount of money

c. a tax

d. a good job

6.Most of America's Founding Fathers did not believe in women's suffrage. Only men could vote in the United

states until 1920. What is “suffrage” ?

a. something that causes physical pain

b. an early flag

c. skirts that did not cover ankles

d. the right to vote

7.Some people are sure that the new health care law will mean better care for everyone. Others argue that the

law will mean less care and longer waiting lines for those who need to see doctors. It's a controversy that will

not go away soon. A controversy is something that people \_\_ \_.

a. have strong disagreements over

b. blow their noses into

c. need to pay for a visit to a doctor

d. eat with sweet candy

8.Removing seeds from cotton plants was a slow job until Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. What is a cotton

gin?

a. a drink

b. a book

c. a machine

d. a cloth

9.In the early 1600s, a dangerous trip across the Atlantic Ocean was a daunting idea. The Europeans, who would someday be known as the Pilgrims, must have been a very determined and brave group of settlers.

A daunting task is one that would \_ someone.

a. tickle

b. amuse

c. lose or misplace

d. frighten or intimidate

10.The original Pilgrims called themselves the “Saints” and referred to others who joined with them for the voyage as the “Strangers.” In this context, “original” means \_\_ \_.

a. one of a kind

b. first

c. humorous

d. musical

11.The Saints and Strangers argued about how they would live in the New World. After much discussion, they

came together and signed the Mayflower Compact. The Compact was \_\_ \_.

a. a container for makeup

b. a small item

c. a machine used for mashing corn

d. an agreement

12. When the Pilgrims landed in what is now Massachusetts, they were fearful that the Native Americans would

attack them. However, the people that they encountered, the Wampanoag Indians, were a peaceful and

generous tribe. To encounter, is to \_\_ \_.

a. meet

b. note how many

c. fight

d. exchange text messages

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Topic: Vocabulary for Social Interactions**

**Common phrases to ask how someone is:**

* What’s up?
* What’s new?
* What have you been up to lately?
* How’s it going?
* How are things?
* How’s life?

**Common phrases to say how you are:**

* I’m fine, thanks. How about you?
* Pretty good.
* Same as always
* Not so great.
* Could be better
* Can’t complain

**Common phrases to say thank you:**

* I really appreciate it.
* I’m really grateful
* That’s so kind of you.
* I owe you one. (this means you want/need to do a favor for the other person in the future)

**Common phrases to respond to thank you:**

* No problem.
* No worries
* Don’t mention it.
* My pleasure.
* Anytime.

**Common phrases to end a conversation politely:**

•It was nice chatting with you.

•Anyway, I should get going.

**Common phrases to ask for information:**

•Do you have any idea…?

•Would you happen to know…? (when you’re not sure if the other person has the information.)

•I don’t suppose you (would) know…? (when you’re not sure if the other person has the information.)

**Common phrases to say I don’t know:**

•I have no idea/clue.

•I can’t help you there.

•(informal) Beats me.

•I’m not really sure.

•I’ve been wondering that, too.

**Common phrases for not having an opinion:**

•I’ve never given it much thought.

•I don’t have strong feelings either way.

•It doesn’t make any difference to me.

•I have no opinion on the matter.

**Common phrases for agreeing:**

•Exactly.

•Absolutely.

•That’s so true.

•That’s for sure.

•I agree 100%

•I couldn’t agree with you more.

•(informal) Tell me about it! / You’re telling me!

•(informal) I’ll say!

•I suppose so. (use this phrase for weak agreement – you agree, but reluctantly)

**Common phrases for disagreeing:**

•I’m not so sure about that.

•That’s not how I see it.

•Not necessarily

**Common phrases to respond to great news:**

•That’s great!

•How wonderful!

•Awesome!

**Common phrases to respond to bad news:**

•Oh no…

•That’s terrible.

•Poor you. (Use this to respond to bad situations that are not too serious)

•I’m so sorry to hear that.

**Common phrases to invite someone somewhere:**

•Are you free… [Saturday night?]

•Are you doing anything… [Saturday night?]

•. (informal) Do you wanna… [see a movie?]

•(formal)Would you like to… [join me for dinner?]

**Common phrases for food:**

•I’m starving! (= I’m very hungry)

•Let’s grab a bite to eat.

•How about eating out tonight? (eat out = eat at a restaurant)

•I’ll have… (use this phrase for ordering in a restaurant)

**Common phrases for price:**

•It cost a fortune.

•It cost an arm and a leg.

•That’s a rip-off. (= overpriced; far more expensive than it should be)

•That’s a bit pricey.

•That’s quite reasonable. (= it’s a good price)

•That’s a good deal. (= a good value for the amount of money)

•It was a real bargain.

•It was dirt cheap. (= extremely inexpensive)

**Common phrases for weather:**

•It’s a little chilly.

•It’s freezing. (= extremely cold)

•Make sure to bundle up. (bundle up = put on warm clothes for protection against the cold)

**Common phrases for hot weather:**

•It’s absolutely boiling! (boiling = extremely hot)

•it scorching hot outside

**Common phrases for being tired:**

•I’m exhausted.

•I’m dead tired.

•I’m beat

•I can hardly keep my eyes open

•I’m gonna hit the sack. (hit the sack = go to bed)