

# Introduction to Linguistics (CL1.102)

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## Sense Relations – Words (contd.)

4. Near Synonymy (contd.): These pairs of words are not propositionally identical; it is not anomalous to assert one and deny another. For example, *He wasn't murdered, he was executed*. These groups often occur in clusters centred around a neutral word – *kill* in this case.
5. Hyponymy: Two words, of which one is more general, and the other is included in it. For example, *dog*, *cat* and *lion* are hyponyms of *animal*. Much of the vocabulary is linked in this way, resulting in hierarchical taxonomies.  
Words which are both hyponyms of the same word are taxonomic sisters. Hyponymous terms entail the superordinate term.
6. Meronymy: Two words which have a part-whole relationship – the object described by one forms a part of the object described by the other. For example, *car* and *engine*.
7. Antonymy (meaning exclusion): Two words with opposite (and therefore incompatible) meanings. There are types of antonyms:
  - Simple antonyms: the negative of one implies the positive of the other, like *dead* vs *alive*
  - Gradable antonyms: the above implication does not hold. For example, *rich* vs *poor* or *hot* vs *cold*. The two major characteristics of these antonyms are:
    - (i) there are intermediate terms between two opposites: hot – warm – tepid – cool – cold
    - (ii) the terms are relative: cold tea and warm beer could be at the same temperature.

Sometimes one word is more basic than the other: *How long is the dog's tail?* vs *How short is the dog's tail?*.

8. Reverses: These are similar to antonyms, but for directions, motions or processes. For example, *push* vs *pull*, *right* vs *left*, or *fill* vs *empty*.
9. Converses: These terms describe a relation between two entities from alternate points of view, like *own* vs *belong* or *teacher* vs *student*.