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What are some words that start with y to describe someone

By Ken Michaels, Guest Writer In Shakespeare's play "Hamlet," Polonius inquires of the prince, "What do you read, my lord?" Not at all pleased with what he's reading, Hamlet replies, "Words, words, words."1 I have previously described the communication model in which a sender encodes a message and then sends it via some channel (or medium) to a receiver, who decodes the message and, ideally, understands what was sent. Surely the most common way of encoding a message is in choosing the most appropriate words for the listener or reader. In Hamlet's case, he so disliked what he read that he described it elementally, as mere words, rather than a message. So I thought I'd devote a little ink to words themselves. "Nym" Words Have Specific Meaning Words ending in nym describe classes of words. Some of the more frequently used nym words are synonym (means the same as); antonym (means the opposite of); homonym (has the same sound as); and acronym (a word derived from the first letters of a more complex term, such as SCUBA or AIDS). Homo means "same," and hetero means "different." Therefore, if there are homonyms, it stands to reason that there are also heteronyms. While homonyms have the same sound but different spellings (like pair and pear), heteronyms are spelled the same but have different meanings and, often, pronunciation: a person who sews is a sewer, but a repository for waste products is a sewer. Sewer, then, is a heteronym. But the lexicon of nym words by no means ends here. One of the websites I visited recently2 lists no fewer than 26 nym words, many of which are pretty arcane and of interest to relatively few. Some are downright amusing. Do we really need a word to mean another word composed of two identical parts? If so, then tutu, pawpaw, yo-yo, and bye-bye are tautonyms. A couple of weeks back, my son asked me what is meant by a metonym. I didn't know, so we looked it up. In retrospect, I ought to have been able to logic it out, as "meta" means change. A metonym is a word that designates something by a word that is associated with it. For example, Hollywood is a metonym used to mean the U.S. motion picture industry, while the Crown refers to royalty, and the bottle refers to alcohol. My use of the expression "a little ink" a couple of paragraphs back is also a metonym for written communication, even when no actual ink or writing on paper is involved. The point of all of this has to do with precision in the use of our language. It will do me no good to encode a message using a word like metonym, or heteronym, or tautonym, unless I'm certain that my listeners (or readers) are familiar with its meaning. Either that, or I'm prepared to add the definition for their benefit, in which case I might have just used the definition in the first place. Still, learning the proper use of words, however arcane, can be useful, and if you like words themselves, even fun. What's Your Idiolect? In his book "The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date," Samuel Arbesman3 discusses the changes in language that occur over time, and the two camps that see this phenomenon differently. He explains prescriptive grammarians as those who focus on the way words ought to be used, and descriptive grammarians as those who are more concerned with the way they actually are used. Arbesman asserts that every individual develops his or her own set of rules about how to use words, and that all of us—you, me, and everybody else—have our own personal idiolect. This delightful term describes our unique language and speech pattern, as determined by what we learned when we were young, as well as by who's around us, and includes our grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation of words, and even our accent. There's an important lesson here. If we're really going to communicate effectively, we need to be mindful that every time we encode a message, someone whose idiolect is significantly different from our own may very possibly decode it in such a way as to get a different message entirely. So it pays to be careful about our choice of words; is it really a message, or simply "words, words, words"? © 2013 Ken Michaels. All rights reserved. References: Shakespeare, William; "Hamlet," act 2 scene 2. Arbesman, Samuel; "The Half-Life of Facts: Why Everything We Know Has an Expiration Date," New York: Penguin Books, 2012, page 190. Ken Michaels, retired manager of Visual Communications, Leidos Biomedical Research, is a special volunteer for NCI at Frederick. Image: John Sommer/E+/Getty Images It's easy to think of words that start with a, s or t. But what about x, y and z? Why does the end of the alphabet get so little love?We all know the meaning of words like "zoological," "Zen" and "zebra." But do you know what "zenana" means? What about "zygomatic," "zinnwaldite" or "zygosporangium"? "Yankee," "yellow" and "yearling" are not confusing terms, but what about "yarmulke," "yestereve," "ytriferous" and "yohimbine"? "Xeroxing" and "x-raying" are common verbs, but have you heard of "xenographing," "xenogenesis," "xylotomous" or "xenocurrency"?In this quiz, we're going to focus on words that start with the neglected letters x, y and z. If you're a word wizard, you may ace this test; however, even if you don't have the biggest vocabulary, we bet you'll be able to guess at least a few questions right. Either way, you'll get to dust off some little-used words and add them to your vocabulary.Come on Generation Xers, Xennials and Generation Z! If you're ready to push your vocabulary skills to their zenith, let's get quizzing! TRIVIA If You Pass This Vocabulary Quiz With All Words That Start With 'Z,' You May Be a Genius 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Pass This Incredibly Difficult Logic Test? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Complete These Vocabulary Definitions? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Define All of These Words That Start With Z? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Define These Words Without Using a Dictionary? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA If We Give You One Definition for a Word, Can You Give Us Its Second Meaning? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Do You Know the Definition of These 2-Letter Words? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Match the Word to Its Definition? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Pass This Difficult Common Phrases Test? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min TRIVIA Can You Define All of These Common '70s Slang Words? 6 Minute Quiz 6 Min How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is an octane rating? And how do you use a proper noun? Lucky for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers reliable, easy-to-understand explanations about how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to compelling photography and fascinating lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how stuff works, other times, we ask you, but we're always exploring in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stick with us! Playing quizzes is free! We send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. By clicking "Sign Up" you are agreeing to our privacy policy and confirming that you are 13 years old or over. Copyright © 2021 InfoSpace Holdings, LLC, a System1 Company Image: Shutterstock All of us are the sum of many parts, one of the things that makes people so cool and interesting is how different all of us are. Still though, when it comes to people that know us well, they think of one thing about us first and foremost. If we were to go up to your significant other or your best friend and asked them to describe you in one word, what would it be? Now don't forget, we are talking about people that like you here, otherwise, the word might be a lot different.Are you known by all as a leader who never quits? Are you courageous, having faced long odds and defeated them? Are you kind to all that you meet? Are you so affected by the world around you would people describe you as sensitive? Are you so funny that people would forget about all of your other characteristics? Do you have a strong sense of justice of what is right and wrong? There are a whole lot of people in the world, and there are a whole lot of words that can be used to describe each of them. Take this quiz to find the word that might describe you best. PERSONALITY Take This Word Association Test and We'll Guess Your Dominant Personality Trait! 4 Minute Quiz 4 Min PERSONALITY What Kind of Person Are You? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Can We Guess Your Intelligence Type Based on This Word Association Test? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Take This Word Association Test and We'll Guess How Empathetic You Are 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Can We Guess Your Intelligence Type Based on the Words You Use? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY How Bougie Are You? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Take This Word Association Test and We'll Guess How Old You Are! 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Are You a Natural Healer? 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min PERSONALITY Assign These Random Items an Element and We'll Guess Your Zodiac Sign 4 Minute Quiz 4 Min PERSONALITY Play a Game of "Would You Rather" and We'll Guess If You're Gen X, Baby Boomer, or a Millennial 5 Minute Quiz 5 Min How much do you know about dinosaurs? What is an octane rating? And how do you use a proper noun? Lucky for you, HowStuffWorks Play is here to help. Our award-winning website offers reliable, easy-to-understand explanations about how the world works. From fun quizzes that bring joy to your day, to compelling photography and fascinating lists, HowStuffWorks Play offers something for everyone. Sometimes we explain how stuff works, other times, we ask you, but we're always exploring in the name of fun! Because learning is fun, so stick with us! Playing quizzes is free! We send trivia questions and personality tests every week to your inbox. By clicking "Sign Up" you are agreeing to our privacy policy and confirming that you are 13 years old or over. Copyright © 2021 InfoSpace Holdings, LLC, a System1 Company Words you use to describe yourself during an interview should represent key skills, attributes or personality traits. Some of these characteristics are more highly demanded by employers than others. Your objective is to recognize the skills that are most important for the job you seek and demonstrate how you used them on past jobs. Skills employers require are usually listed in the job description for each position. Employers want employees who are articulate -- possessing excellent writing and speaking skills. You must be able to provide simple but clear instructions for your subordinates. This enables you to execute tasks correctly and efficiently. You must also know how to break complex issues or data into usable information, whether writing a report or presenting information at a meeting. Use action verbs during the interview to describe your past responsibilities. Explain how you executed a particular project, managed a budget or negotiated a contract with an outside vendor. Employers expect you to be well organized for most jobs. You are required to answer emails, attend meetings and meet the daily demands of your job efficiently. You must also handle a number of projects simultaneously, assigning various tasks to employees to meet deadlines. The best way to demonstrate your organizational skills during an interview is to explain how you divvy up your work and consistently meet those deadlines. Discuss daily planners or weekly project status logs you use for managing all projects. Show the interviewer a copy of a current project log. Analytical skills enable you to assess business situations, evaluate alternatives and address key business issues. You need analytical skills to uncover and solve problems for your employer. These problems might include diminishing market share or sales because of aggressive competitors, or slow production. Whatever the case, describe how you assessed and solved problems in previous positions. Provide numerical results when applicable. Most companies require their employees to work on teams. These teams can be cross-functional, such as marketing working with product development and accounting, or interdepartmental. The important thing is that you demonstrate how well you work in a team environment during the interview. Discuss SAR stories where you interacted with others to complete projects. SAR means situation, action and results. The situation is the summary of the project, including important goals. Actions may include details about with whom you interacted to complete the project. And the results include the positive contributions you made on a particular team. Computer skills are also essential for business professionals. Most employees are expected to know how to use various word-processing, email, spreadsheet and presentation software packages. You might also need database software skills to manage lists of customers or track promotional campaigns. Tell the interviewer what computer software skills you have. Emphasize your expertise level with each type of software. For example, your finance job might require intermediate or advanced spreadsheet skills. Preparation is the key when an interviewer asks, "What is the one word you would use to describe yourself?" The question is almost as difficult to answer as the dreaded interview opener, "Tell me about yourself." But you don't want to give a two- or three-word answer, for fear that you ignored the interviewer and took it upon yourself to decide how you want to answer the question. The word you use could depend on the type of job you're interviewing for, what others say about you or where you see yourself on your career track. Use a word that matches the most important qualification for the job. For example, if you're applying for a hotel housekeeping position, consider using a word such as "conscientious," "attentive" or "efficient." These are characteristics that would serve you well in a position where the company's expectation is for employees to follow strict procedures for job duties such as cleaning, hotel guest service and managing the amount of time they spend on several projects each day. Think about words that your colleagues use to describe you. Using a word based on someone else's perception may carry more weight than trying to conjure up a word that might make you come off as a braggart or immodest. When the interviewer asks for that one word, you could say, "My colleagues usually tell me I'm on the most dependable member on our team, because I can be counted on to pull my weight and then some when we have a team assignment." In this case, it's appropriate to elaborate on the reason for choosing that word. Use a word that's going to help you get that promotion if you're interviewing for a job with your current employer. Words such as "tenacious," "dedicated" or "loyal" describe traits that will benefit you in the long run, especially if you're interviewing for a job within the same company. Words such as these reinforce your commitment to the company and remind the hiring manager why promoting an internal candidate may benefit the organization more than making a job offer to an external candidate. Take inventory of the attributes for which you're most proud and preface the one-word answer with, "At the risk of being immodest, I consider myself ...". Continue your answer to the interviewer's question with a word or term such as "detail-oriented," "collaborative" or "innovative." These are the types of words that suggest what you bring to the company -- avoid choosing words that really aren't immodest. A response such as, "At the risk of being immodest, I consider myself a perfect employee," is off-putting because it's probably not true because employees -- no matter how hard you work -- aren't perfect.

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