

VOCABULARY

☞ SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

Synonym is a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another in the language.

For example, the synonyms for happy are joyful, glad, merry and so on.

Antonym is a word opposite in meaning to the given word.

For instance, the antonym, for happy are disappointed, melancholy, disturbed, etc.

Few tricks to solve synonyms and antonyms:

1. Recognise the correct of part of speech (Nouns, Adjectives, Adverbs and Verbs) of the word. For instance:

I. Find the synonym of Patient:

- (a) Gently (b) Calmly
(c) Loud (d) Tolerant

Ans: [d]

Though options (a) and (b) are also closely similar to the 'Patient', they aren't the answers as they are adverbs, while 'patient' is an adjective. Hence the answer should also be an adjective.

2. A word can have several meanings according to the context it appears.

I. The word 'Season' has more than one meaning:

- (a) It is rainy **season** in the North – Here it means that the word 'season' is a period of the year with a particular climate/weather (spring, summer, fall, winter).
(b) My mother asked me to **season** the dal before serving- The verb season means to apply spices or flavourings to food. These spices or flavourings are called seasonings.

II. The word 'Buckle' has many meanings:

- (a) I prefer lighter **buckles** to bulkier one's- The word buckle refers to a metal clasp, such as one found on a belt.
(b) Young children are unable to **buckle** their pants - Buckle is also a verb meaning to close/fasten such a clasp.
(c) His legs **buckled** due to dehydration while climbing the hill - The other meaning for the word buckle is to collapse, especially under a lot of weight or pressure.

Hence the context of the word should also be taken into consideration before finding the answer.

3. English words often share a Latin, Greek or a French root with other words, hence in case of not knowing a word, break the word in parts and think of other words sharing the same group of letters.

I. Aster, Asterisk, Asteroid, Astronomy, and Astronaut share the Latin root word "Astr", which means star.

II. Carnivorous, Incarnate, Reincarnation, and Carnal share the root word "Carn" which means flesh.

Hence learn the list of words having same Latin, Greek and French word.

4. Prefix and Suffix also help to a certain extent to figure out the meaning of a word.

I. il-, im-, in-, ir-means "not" – Words include Impossible, Illegal, Irresponsible, Indefinite.

II. Trans- means "across", "beyond" – words include Transport, Transnational, and Transatlantic.

5. Some common words have unusual and obscure meaning and can easily mislead you.

I. The word "Maroon" has two different meanings –

Verb - To maroon someone is to leave or abandon them on a desolate island.

Noun - A dark brownish-red colour.

II. The word "Organ" has got the following meaning:

Noun: a musical instrument such as a pipe organ a musical/instrument.

Noun: a specific part of the body such as the heart or liver.

6. In some tests, there can be instances when two options are similar to each other and mislead you to a wrong answer.

I. Amorphous means

- (a) Formless (b) Interest
(c) Disinterest (d) Traditional

Answer is option (a) Option b and c are only to divert your attention.

7. Words starting with 'un', 'dis', 'in', 'anti', etc are not necessarily be the opposites. This has to be carefully considered.

I. The antonym of 'Pungent' is

- (a) Disintegrate (b) Strong
(c) Unclear (d) Bland

The answer is option (d) Option a and c are to be ignored.

8. In case the meaning of the word is not clear, going through all the available options can certainly be considered as a good idea. By doing so, one can start getting idea about the given question & start negating the available options one after the other.

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

I. What is the antonym of 'Maligned'?

- (a) Beneficent (b) Magnanimous
(c) Downtrodden (d) Destitute
(e) Elegant

The prefix, "mal" is typically used in negatively charged words.

Therefore, the answer will likely have a positive charge.

Let's go through the list to see how each word is charged.

- (a) Beneficent (+) (b) magnanimous (+) (c) downtrodden (-)
(d) destitute (-) (e) elegant (=)

After labelling each, we are left with two words that are positively charged: beneficent and magnanimous.

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

The answer is option (a).

10. Synonyms when used in the same sentence at the same place ideally do not change the entire meaning of the sentence. For example, "It was Rahil's hesitation that was the cause of all trouble" can be replaced by "It was Rahil's reluctance that was the cause of all trouble" as 'hesitation' and 'reluctance' are similar in meaning.

Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms are words with identical or at least similar meanings.

E.g.: Expensive = Costly

Antonyms are words that are opposites.

E.g.: Expensive x Cheap

In verbal tests, questions related to spotting the synonym or antonym can take different forms. Before we explore the varied question types, here are a few useful tips and pointers to help you perform better.

1. Spotting the correct word can depend on recognising the correct part of speech (for instance, nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs).

E.g.: Choose the synonyms of ADVENT.

- (a) Starting (b) Arrival
(c) Finale (d) Past

Ans.: Option (b). There could be some confusion between 'starting' and 'arrival'. 'Starting' is a verb while 'arrival' is a noun. Since 'advent' is a noun, the answer should also be a noun.

2. A word can have several meanings. The synonym could be any one of them.

E.g.: The word OBJECT has several meanings -

- (a) I am looking for a round object. Here, 'object' means 'a material or a thing that can be seen and touched'.
(b) That car is the object of my desire. Here, it means 'person or thing to which an action or feeling is directed.'
(c) His object in life is to become a great actor. Here, it means 'a goal or purpose'.
(d) The government will object to this proposal. Here, it means 'express disapproval or opposition'. (The word object is used as a verb while in sentences a, b, c it is used as a noun.)

3. If the word for which you have to find the synonym or antonym is given as part of a sentence, you have to identify the contextual meaning of that word in that sentence.

E.g.: Find the synonym of the underlined word: "The Chief Guest is going to present the award to the winner."

- (a) Attend (b) Give
(c) Now (d) Gift

Ans.: Option (b) because in this context 'present' means 'give formally'.

4. Do not always go for the option that starts with the same letter as it can be a deliberate trap.

E.g.: GARGANTUAN means

- (a) Gregarious (b) Immense
(c) Tremulous (d) Entertaining

Ans.: Option (b). One should not be misled by the word 'gregarious'.

5. If you do not know what a word means, think of other words that share a group of letters with this word. Often words share a Latin or French root with other words.

E.g.: Spectator and inspect share the same Latin root 'spec' which means 'look'.

This is a useful method but is not foolproof.

6. Watch out for confusing words that sound the same or have near similar spellings but different meanings.

E.g.: incite - insight

'incite' means 'provoke' whereas 'insight' means 'the capacity to gain an accurate and intuitive understanding of something'.

7. Look out for unusual meanings of a word. Normally, we look for the most common meaning of a word.

E.g.: The word 'rate' is normally used to describe the speed at which something happens; however it can also mean to 'classify'.

8. Some unusual words can mislead you, especially if the meaning is obscure. So think before answering.

E.g.: CROWD is the opposite of

- (a) Dislocation (b) Dispel
(c) Distraction (d) Distaff

Ans.: Option (b). Option (d) 'distaff' can confuse as it contains 'staff' in it which could possibly be interpreted as people.

9. Be careful of two options that are similar. In a difficult test, this could be a trap to distract you from the correct answer.

E.g.: AMORPHOUS means

- (a) Formless (b) Interest
(c) Disinterest (d) Traditional

Ans.: Option (a). Option (b) and (c) are only meant to divert your attention.

10. While doing antonym exercises, remember not to get carried away by options that start with 'un', 'dis', 'in', 'anti', etc. Such words are not necessarily the opposites.

E.g.: The antonym of PUNGENT is

- (a) Disintegrate (b) Strong
(c) Unclear (d) Bland

Ans.: Option (d). Option (a) and (c) are to be ignored.

Example:

LUCID

- (a) Lively (b) Clear
(c) Irrational (d) Soft

Ans.: Option (b) 'clear' means the same as 'Lucid'.

☞ IDIOMS & PHRASES

Comparison between Idioms and Phrases:

	Idioms	Phrases
Definition	An idiom is an expression made by a combination of words, whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the individual words.	A phrase is a group of words which are used together to define an expression.
Considered as	They are considered as colloquial metaphors.	They are considered as formal sentences.
Sentence part	They are more inventive part of a sentence.	They are the technical part of a sentence.

Functionality	They are not functional and direct.	They are functional and direct.
Link	The meaning of the expression and the individual words are not linked to each other.	The meaning of the expression and the individual words are linked to each other.
Occurrence	They occur frequently in all languages.	They are widely used in all languages.

PHRASES

A phrase is a small group of words that forms a meaningful unit within a clause. There are several different types, as follows:

Noun phrase

A noun phrase is built around a single noun, for example:

A **vase of roses** stood on the table.

She was reading a **book about the emancipation of women.**

Verb phrase

A verb phrase is the verbal part of a clause, for example:

She **had been living** in London.

I **will be going** to college next year.

Adjective phrase

An adjective phrase is built around an adjective, for example:

He's led a **very interesting** life.

A lot of the kids are **really keen on football.**

Adverbial phrase

An adverbial phrase is built round an adverb by adding words before and/or after it, for example:

The economy recovered **very slowly.**

They wanted to leave the country **as fast as possible.**

Prepositional phrase

In a prepositional phrase the preposition always comes at the beginning, for example:

I longed to live **near the sea.**

The dog was hiding **under the kitchen table.**

Of course, we also use the word **phrase** to refer to a short group of words that have a particular meaning when they are used together, such as rain cats and dogs, play for time, or a square meal. This type of phrase is often referred to as an **idiom**.

What is a clause?

Clauses are groups of words that have both subjects and predicates. Unlike phrases, a clause can sometimes act as a sentence – this type of clause is called an independent clause. This isn't always the case, and some clauses can't be used on their own – these are called subordinate clauses, and need to be used with an independent clause to complete their meaning.

An example of a subordinate clause is "When the man broke into the house"

An example of an independent clause is "the dog barked at him"

While the independent clause could be used by itself as a complete sentence, the subordinate clause could not. For it to be correct, it would need to be paired with another clause: "When the man broke into the house, the dog barked at him."

What is a sentence?

A complete sentence has a subject and predicate, and can often be composed of more than one clause. As long as it has a subject and a predicate, a group of words can form a sentence, no matter how short.

E.g. "You ate fish."

More complex sentences can combine multiple clauses or phrases to add additional information about what is described. Clauses may be combined using conjunctions – such as "and", "but" and "or".

E.g. "He went out to dinner but didn't enjoy the meal."

This example is composed of two independent clauses, "he went out to dinner" and "he didn't enjoy the meal", combined with a conjunction- "but".

Idiom is a phrase or expression with a meaning different from the meanings of the individual words.

E.g.: If Haridas Kumar Pal's room is in apple pie order, it is
(a) neat and tidy (b) arranged with apple pies
(c) smelling of fruits (d) dull without lighting
Ans.: Option (a)

ANALOGY

The dictionary meaning of analogy is corresponding items or correspondence. In this chapter we have to find a particular relationship from the given relationship. In competitive exams, this is given to check one's overall knowledge, power of reasoning and ability to think concisely and accurately.

RELATIONSHIPS

- Gender with Respective name :
Example: Bull : Cow
Cow is the female side of Bull.
- Animal with their respective Young one :
Example: Dog : Puppy
Puppy is the young one of Dog

- Individual and Living place :
Example: Lion : Den
A Lion lives in Den.
- Country and Capital :
Example: Afghanistan : Kabul
Kabul is the Capital of Afghanistan.
- State and capital :
Example: Maharashtra : Mumbai
Mumbai is the capital of Maharashtra.
- Country and Currency :
Example: India : Rupee
Rupee is the currency of India
- Instrument and Measurement :
Example: Barometer : Pressure
Barometer is the instrument used to measure pressure
- Quantity and Unit :
Example: Length : Metre
Metre is the unit of measuring Length
- Animal and movement :
Example: Duck : Waddle
Waddling is the name given to the movement of Duck.
- Animal/Thing and Sound :
Example: Lion : Roar
Roar is the sound produced by Lion

CLASS WORK

Directions for Q1 to Q5: Identify the Synonyms of the following words given in capitals.

- VITIATE
(a) Impair (b) Reject
(c) Quicken (d) Enhance
- ACUMEN
(a) Accuracy (b) Shrewdness
(c) Force (d) Obtuseness
- TEMERITY
(a) Fear (b) Recklessness
(c) Diffidence (d) Ruthlessness
- FABRICATE
(a) Stretch (b) Concoct
(c) Indulge (d) Dazzle
- JUNCTURE
(a) Beginning (b) Obstruction
(c) Moment (d) Complexity

Directions for Q6 to Q10: Identify the Antonyms of the following words given in capitals.

6. EXHAUST

(a) Emphasize	(b) Fortify
(c) Revere	(d) Diffuse
7. CONSPICUOUS

(a) Undistinguished	(b) Incorrect
(c) Vexed	(d) Considerable
8. FESTER

(a) Mourn	(b) Shine
(c) Mend	(d) Leave
9. BEATIFIC

(a) Ugly	(b) Monotony
(c) Tortuous	(d) Wicked
10. RECALCITRANT

(a) Stylish	(b) Feckless
(c) Yielding	(d) Sombre

Directions for Q11 to Q13: Choose the options that best bring out the meanings of the underlined idioms.

11. Jack has another ace up his sleeve this time to win the match.

(a) another trump card	(b) another conspiracy
(c) excuse	(d) similar dress
12. After his consecutive wins he is riding on the crest of a wave.

(a) in a bad shape	(b) at the heights of success
(c) taking a chance	(d) in a dilemma
13. He is a dab hand at managing all the mechanics in our factor.

(a) useless	(b) irresponsible
(c) very skilled	(d) dishonest

Directions for Q14 to Q17: Choose the best answer for each phrase or term.

14. Free from bias

(a) candid	(b) concede
(c) conceive	(d) correspond
15. To tell secrets trustingly is to

(a) convert	(b) conceive
(c) correspond	(d) confide
16. Something that is contagious is

(a) satisfied
(b) belonging to the same age
(c) spread by contact
(d) brief

17. Of hidden meaning

(a) concurrent	(b) cosmonaut
(c) cryptic	(d) crainology

Directions for Q18 to Q21: In each of the following questions, you will find three initial terms and four answer options designated a, b, c and d. You are to select from the four answer options the one that best completes the analogy with the three initial terms.

18. HORRIFIC : HORROR :: SOPORIFIC : _____

(a) Joy	(b) Boredom
(c) Sleep	(d) Stupidity
19. PTOLEMY : EARTH :: COPERNICUS : _____

(a) Moon	(b) Sun
(c) Jupiter	(d) Universe
20. QUICK : RABBIT :: _____ : OWL

(a) Sleepy	(b) Wise
(c) Hungry	(d) Angry
21. PATRICIDE : _____ :: MATRICIDE : MOTHER

(a) Brother	(b) Sister
(c) King	(d) Father

Directions for Q22 to Q25: Each of the following analogy questions presents a related pair of words linked by a colon. Five lettered pairs of words follow the linked pair. Choose the lettered pair of words whose relationship is most like the relationship expressed in the original linked pair.

22. GULLIBLE : DUPED ::

(a) Credible : Cheated	(b) Careful : Cautioned
(c) Malleable : Molded	(d) Myopic : Misled
(e) Articulate : Silenced	
23. DUNGEON : CONFINEMENT ::

(a) Church : Chapel	(b) School : Truancy
(c) Asylum : Refuge	(d) Hospital : Mercy
(e) Courthouse : Remorse	
24. MENDACITY : HONESTY ::

(a) Courage : Cravenness
(b) Truth : Beauty
(c) Courage : Fortitude
(d) Turpitude : Depravity
(e) Unsophistication : Ingenuousness
25. SHALE : GEOLOGIST ::

(a) Catacombs : Entomologist
(b) Aster : Botanist
(c) Obelisk : Fireman
(d) Love : Philologist
(e) Reef : Astrologer