

7. SYNONYMS

Techniques for Solving Questions on Synonyms:

Synonym questions test knowledge of vocabulary more directly than do any of the other verbal question types, measuring the strength of your vocabulary and your ability to reason from a given concept. Synonyms may require only general knowledge of a word, or they may require that you make fine distinctions among answer choices. Synonyms are generally confined to nouns, verbs and adjectives; answer choice may be single word or phrase.

Here are some approaches that may be helpful in answering questions on synonyms:

- Remember that you are looking for the word that is the most nearly similar to the given word; you are NOT looking for an antonym! you must look for the answer choice that expresses a concept most nearly similar to that of the given word.
- In some cases, more than one of the answer choices may appear at first to be similar to the given word. When this happens, try to define more precisely or in greater detail the meaning of the given word. Eliminate answer enoices that are close symatyms.
- In weighing answer choices, it is often useful to make up a sentence using the given word or words. Substitute the answer choices in the phrase or sentence and see which best fits. Remember that a particular word may have more than one meaning.
- Use your knowledge of root, prefix and suffix meanings to help you determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.

Techniques for Solving Synonyms Questions:

On harder synonym questions, beware of tricky choices. 1. Can you spot the trick in the following example? Choose the best synonym:

Restive:

(A) patient

(B)rigorous

(C)deceptive (D)agitated

The word, restive, is tricky, because it sounds like it has something to do with rest. Therefore, (A) would be the best synonym. However, this is a trick. Restive actually means restless. So, the correct answer is agitated, a good synonym for restless. It is beneficial to familiarize yourself with tricky words like restive, because they are commonly tested on the standardized examinations.

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2. Take note of positively /negatively-charged answer choices.

It is possible to associate a negative or positive charge with many words. Try to discern whether each word in the following list has a positive (+), negative (-), or neutral charge.

Choose the best synonym:

Maligned:

(A)beneficent

(B)magnanimous

(C)downtrodden

(D) destitute

In the example, we are trying to find the best synonym for the word maligned. So, we should begin by ascertaining its charge. The prefix, "mal" is typically used in negatively charged words. Therefore, the answer will also have a negative charge. Let's go through the list to see how each word is charged.

(A) beneficent (+)

(B) magnanimous (+)

(C) downtrodden (-)

(D) censured (-)

After labeling 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% chance 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. D) is the best choice.

3. Eliminate answer choices that are close synonyms.

Spotting synonyms within the answer choices can be valuable because it allows you to narrow your viable answer choices. If two of the answers have very similar meanings, then the correct answer is too ambiguous. Therefore, it is possible to eliminate these choices. See if you can eliminate two answer choices from the following example.

Choose the best synonym.

Foment:

(A) mitigate

(B) engender

(C)arouse

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(D)mollify

The words *mitigate* and *mollify* are close synonyms. They both mean "to reduce or soften in pain or intensity, to make less severe." This leaves only two remaining viable answer choices. C) is the best choice.

4. Try to associate the word with a familiar context.

Words on the GATE are tested for good reason: they are very effective. This being the case, they get included in many proverbial phrases. Note the following examples: "Gail force winds," "The Village Advocate," "Test your mettle", "Road to Perdition", "Patience is a virtue", "Abject poverty", "He made it through unscathed".



5. Use your knowledge of Romance Languages.

The roots of many words have similar meanings in foreign languages. For example, the Spanish word malo means bad. This is a common root for many negatively charged words:

- maligned
- malignant
- malapropos
- malediction
- malevolent
- malicious
- malefactor



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EXERCISE-7(A)

Dire	ections: In each of the tify the best synonym.	e following questions,	10.	QUERULOUS (A) complaining (C) artless	(B) fearful (D) inquisitive
1.	CONSPICUOUS (A) featured (C) unreliable	(B) confusing (D) discernible	11.	LURID (A) attractive (C) evasive	
2.	EXACERBATE (A) remove (C) forget	(B) irritate (D) tender	12.	GRAVID (A) expectant (C) fortunate	(B) serious (D) frustrated
3.	DEPRAVITY (A) degeneracy (C) disabuse	(B) denunciation (D) disapproval	13.	FACTITIOUS (A) unreal (C) probable	(B) unrivalled (D) perceptible
4.	ABYSMAL (A) unfathomable	(B) illusive	14.	VEGETATE (A) seed (B) divide	(C) idle (D) avoid
5.	(C) miraculous BLEARY	(D) pertinent	15.	UNGUENT (A) disgrace (C) variant	(B) ointment (D) color
	(A) favorable (C) blue	(B) punishable(D) indistinct	16.	TENACIOUS (A) unyielding	(B) multiple
6.	CAPITULATE (A) surrender (C) escalate IMPRECATE	(B) repeat (D) signify	17.	(C) divine STRAIT-LACED (A) proper (C) immobile	(D) temporary(B) mandatory(D) appropriate
7.	(A) allude (C) curse	(B) contaminate (D) impel	18.	SARDONIC (A) pardonable (C) sarcastic	(B) achievable (D) mild
8.	MORES (A) excess (C) greed	(B) customs (D) funerals	19.	PANACHE (A) ultimatum (C) mustache	(B) elegance (D) style
9.	INGENUOUS (A) creative (C) frank	(B) artificial (D) guile	20.	PALAVER (A) cajole (C) render	(B) collapse (D) pirate

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ANSWER KEYS

D	2	В	3	A	4	A	5	D	6	A	7	C
В	9	C	10 17	A	11	D	12	A	13	A	14	C
В	16	A	17	C	18	C	19	D	20	A	en id	

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p Ca	GOSSAMIEK (A Hilpsy			(C) howilder	
	(C) nake-like	(Pd. introduction)			
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	(A) decoration	(B) armoreste		punsva ())	unitscrippe (G)
	(C) milional	(D) Lnowladge			
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	STELLEY. (A)			novs((()	mitain (H)
	TEOWY ()	(B) feeble		(C) worship	againing (CI)
		(D) deduc			
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	(A) amuch)e			qfug (A)	pida (8)
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		OTHIOTE (11)		minting (-1)	
	PEASH				(D) pulpit
		(B) play ship	.81	SOTERIC	
	though him . 31	Demandant(d)		sandeda (v.)	(1)
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EXERCISE-7(B)

	ections: In each of the tify the best synonym.	e following questions,	11.	TURGID (A) shrunken (C) turbulent	(B) bombastic (D) elastic
1.	MAUNDER (A) mishandle (C) wander	(B) insult (D) assault	12.		(B) burp
2.	EXIGUOUs (A) scanty (C) healthy	(B) irrelevant (D) proximate	13.	(C) bite CONFOUND	(D) malign
3.	GOSSAMER (A) filmy	(B) intractable		(A) slam (C) bewilder	(B) excavate (D) discover
4.	(C) snake-like CARTEL (A) decoration	(D) wild (B) syndicate	14.	VISAGE (A) senility (C) avenue	(B) countenance (D) application
5.	(C) official FEINT (A) obscure	(D) knowledge (B) feeble	15.	WELTER (A) haven (C) worship	(B) clutter (D) protege
6.	(C) swear MOROSE (A) amiable (C) gorgeous	(D) dodge(B) sullen(D) jumbled	16.	SWILL (A) gulp (C) pettiness	(B) whirl (D) persistence
7.	INDITE (A) accuse (C) compose	(B) jumble (D) arouse	17.	NOSTRUM (A) affinity (C) podium	(B) therapeutic (D) pulpit
8.	BRASH (A) resonant (C) impetuous	(B) plausible (D) fragmented	18.	ESOTERIC (A) abstruse (C) variegated	(B) miscellaneous
9.	PRIVATION (A) want (C) alienation	(B) privacy (D) eccentricity	19,		(B) embarrass
10.	TENUOUS (A) mushrooming (C) vicious	(B) slight (D) unlimited	20.	•	(D) amortize(B) camouflage(D) stimulate

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ANSWER KEYS

1	C	2 9	A	3	A	4	В	5	D	6	В	7	C
8	C	9	C	10	В	11	В	12	A	13	С	14	В
15	В	16	A	17	В	18	A	19	В	20	D	122	





8. ANTONYMS

Antonym questions test knowledge of vocabulary more directly than do any of the other verbal question types, measuring the strength of your vocabulary and your ability to reason from a given concept Antonyms may require only general knowledge of a word, or they may require that you make fine distinctions among answer choices. Antonyms are generally confined to nouns, verbs and adjectives; answer choice may be a single word or phrase.

Here are some approaches that may be helpful in answering antonym questions:

- Remember that you are looking for the word that is the most nearly opposite to the given word; you are not looking for a synonym. Many words do not have a precise opposite, so you must look for the answer choice that expresses a concept most nearly opposite to that of the given word.
- In some cases, more than one of the answer choices may appear at first to be opposite to the given word. When this happens, try to define more precisely or in greater detail the meaning of the given word.
- In weighing answer choices, it is often useful to make up a sentence using the given word or words. Substitute the answer choices in the phrase or sentence and see which best fits. The best answer will be the one that reverses the meaning or tone of the sentence or phrase.
- Remember that a particular word may have more than one meaning.
- Use your knowledge of root, prefix and suffix meanings to help you determine the meanings of unfamiliar words.

Example 8.1:

HYPOTHETICAL (A) chaotic

(B) axiomatic

(C) sovereign

(D) challenging

Answer:

(B)

Explanation:

Something hypothetical is merely suggested to be true; something axiomatic is accepted as true.

Example 8.2:

SPECIOUS

(A) high-minded

(B) headstrong (C) promiscuous

mest to come derbs and adjustines; answer choice may

seaning of the given word.

Here are corresponded that may be helpful at answering transformations from

S count or that a particular word ma, have room than one meaning.

(D) correct

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

Something specious is fake or false and is therefore not correct.

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the green word. When this happens, my to define more precisely area great, sletted the

word or words. Substitute the answer choics in the phrese or securities and see which nest late. The best answer will be the one that receives the reconcer or tene of the

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EXERCISE-8(A)

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	ections: In each of t	he following questions,	11	73.7.1.5.000	
D	irections: In each of the each	word.	11.	INANE	
id	entily			(A) brazen	(B) retiring
	ARTIFICE			(C) rational	(D) afflicted
1.	(A) candor	(B) wile			
	(C) wickedness	(D) sacrifice	12.	INDURATE	
	•			(A) macerate	(B) exacerbate
	CADAVEROUS			(C) inundate	(D) inculcate
2.	(A) innovative	(B) fickle-minded	10 mg 1 3		
	(C) bubbling	(D) pessimistic	13.	AFFECTATION	
				(A) naiveté	(B) inertness
3.	LITHE			(C) pretence	(D) innocuousness
٦,	(A) supple	(B) stiff			
	(C) truthful	(D) reputable	14.	ASTUTE	
	•			(A) obtuse	(B) appropriate
4.	NESCIENT			(C) dissolute	(D) cluttered
٦.	(A) unscientific	(B) frivolous			• •
	(C) restless	(D) gnostic	15.	BUCOLIC	
				(A) pastoral	(B) feeble
5.	PASTORAL			(C) arcadian	(D) urban
	(A) bucolic	(B) urbane			· /
	(C) insensitive	(D) prolific	16.	GRUELING	
	• • •		10.	(A) undemanding	(B) liberal
6.	RETRIBUTION			(C) sympathetic	(D) compelling
	(A) recompense	(B) clemency		(C) sympathetic	(2) ************************************
	(C) attribution	(D) contribution	17	MASOCHISM	
	()		17.	(A) egalitarianism	(B) plagiarism
7.	PREEMPTIVE			` '	(D) feminism
	(A) rhetorical	(B) permissive		(C) sadism	(D) Tellinisin
	(C) succeeding	(D) posthumous	11	n MUCHADI E	
			18.	IMPUGNABLE	(D) munichable
8.	PREDATORY			(A) unquestionable	(B) punishable
	(A) unprecedented	(B) chronic		(C) pugnacious	(D) pregnable
	(C) timeless	(D) unacquisitive		1	
	(c) imeless	() -	19.		
9.	HORTATORY			(A) tautological	(B) concise
	(A) complex	(B) discouraging		(C) incorrigible	(D) rigid
	(C) sensational	(D) jovial			
	(C) sensational	(2))	20.	ACHROMATIC	
10.	IMPUDENT			(A) pale	(B) innocent
	(A) insolent	(B) sagacious		(C) supercilious	(D) colored
		(D) humiliating		(-)	
	(C) retiring	(D) Humin	2		AMP All In the Mark Contra
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ANSWER KEYS

1	A	2	C	3	В	4	D	5	В	6	В	7	B
8	D	9	В	10	C	11	С	12	A	13	A	14	A
									В				

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EXERCISE-8(B)

			0.00	D)	the state of the s
	ections: In each of the	ne following questions,	11.	RACY	
Dil	rections: In each of the next opposite was	word,		(A) tasteless	(B) relentless
ide	TOTIC				(D) stationery
1.	CABALISTIC	(D)		(C) drowsy	(D) stationery
1.	(A) artistic	(B) exoteric	10		
	(C) cryptic	(D) acrylic	12.	RANGY	m
1				(A) little	(B) achromatic
	TENEBROUS			(C) innocent	(D) diluted
2.	(A) unilateral	(B) melodious	13.	FORFEITED	
	(C) light	(D) harsh		(A) borrowed	(B) unclaimed
		(2) harsh		(C) won	(D) unattained
	IMBECILIC				
3.	(A) fundamental	(B) regular	14.	AMATORY	
	(C) populous	(D) precocious		(A) captivated	(B) platonic
				(C) objectionable	(D) unloving
	IMPUISSANT			(5) 5-3	
4.	(A) potent	(B) poignant	15.	JUDICIOUS	
	(C) prevalent	(D) placable	15.	(A) improvident	(B) unethical
	(C) prevarent	(-)[(C) illicit	(D) turbid
	SETACEOUS			(C) illicit	
5.		(B) disputatious		CD A DDED	
	(A) barbed	(D) contagious	16.		(B) obliging
	(C) unarmed	(D) contagious		(A) ill-tempered	(D) expeditious
	- TONIAT			(C) swift	(D) expeditions
6.	VENAL	(B) mutilated			
	(A) incorrupt		17.	DEBONAIR	(D) 1'4
	(C) inanimate	(D) spongy		(A) depressing	(B) solitary
				(C) smirky	(D) penniless
7.	OMINOUS	(D) lorming			
	(A) parsimonious	(B) unalarming	18.	DISCONSOLATE	97.4
	(C) vicious	(D) fabulous	10.	(A) unsociable	(B) amicable
				(C) effervescent	(D) philistine
8.	RECALCITRANT			(C) cherves	
	(A) refractory	(B) repulsive	40	NETTLESOME	
	(C) obedient	(D) considerable	19.		(B) vexatious
	(0) 0000			(A) testy	(D) societal
0	BIZARRE			(C) congenial	(2)
9.		(B) cryptic			
	(A) unique	(D) conventional	20.		(D) daradavil
	(C) idiosyncratic	(D) COM (C.		(A) backward	(B) daredevil
10				(C) debile	(D) feckless
10.	UNTHEATRICAL	(B) unemotional			
	(A) histrionic	-itiz/A			
	(C) incredible	(D) sensitive			ATE All India Test Series
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ANSWER KEYS

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8	C	9	D	10	Α	11	A	12	A	13 20	С	14	B
15	A	16	В	17	A	18	С	19	С	20	В		D

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