

SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

As most of us are aware, Synonyms are words of same meaning and Antonyms are words of opposite meaning .

In your Bank Exams, ideally these question patterns appear in Reading Comprehension passages or independently. Lets look at two patterns.

Pattern 1

A word is followed by 4 or 5 options a,b,c ,d or 1,2,3,4,5 from which you are required to choose the word that is similar in meaning or opposite in meaning to the given word.

Ex: **Choose the word that is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word printed in bold as used in the passage(RC)**

Squander

1) lavish 2) spend 3) displace 4) lose 5) misuse

In the above example, squander means to spend wastefully or extravagantly and lavish is an adjective which means extravagant and wasteful. So the answer is 1) Lavish.

(Or)

Choose the word which is the most OPPOSITE in meaning of the given word.

Fragile

1) weak 2) lasting 3) long 4) strong 5) unstable

Fragile means easily broken, damaged, or destroyed; frail and the exact opposite word from the option is lasting, option 2), something that remains for a long time; enduring.

Pattern 2

This pattern is where you are required to find two synonym or antonym pairs out of a set of four words.

In each of the following questions four words are given, of which two words are most nearly the same or opposite in meaning. Find the two words which are most nearly the same or opposite in meaning and indicate the number of the correct letter combination, by darkening the appropriate oval in your answer sheet.

(A) pertinent (B) impolite (C) irrelevant (D) insecure

1) A-C 2) B-D 3) C-D 4) A-D 5) B-C

From the above example, pertinent means relevant so we have an antonym pair here and the answer is 1).

If you have sound vocabulary this question pattern is a piece of cake however the challenge is when you don't know the meaning of words then you can still fall back on a strategy and that is 'Root Words'.

Lets look at an example.

1. Choose the word that has the same meaning as the below given word.

Plenitude

- a. Prosperity b. Ecstasy c. Abundance d. Scarcity

From the above example, the given word contains a Latin root word , 'plenis' which means full or an ample amount of quantity. Knowledge of the root word will help arrive at the answer easily, saving time and the answer is option c. Abundance.

Lets look at another example.

2. Choose the word that has the opposite meaning as the given word below

Abolished

- a) fixed b) founded c) established d) effected

'ab' is a Latin root word which means, 'the act of turning away from', 'do away with' and since we require an antonym, the answer is c) established which means, 'to set up' or 'to introduce and put into force'.

Test your knowledge on such question patterns.

Exercise 1

Choose the word that is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the given word

1. Conduct
a) behavior b) courage c) murder d) quarrel
2. Seeking
a) catching up b) looking for c) looking like d) sorting out
3. Pursuit
a) anticipation b) expectation c) search d) target
4. Surrendered
a) resolved b) struggled c) succumbed d) withstood
5. Prohibited
a) banned b) disapproved c) endorsed d) volunteered
6. Incriminate
a) blame b) confine c) imprison d) incarcerate
7. Prerequisite
a) condition b) necessity c) probability d) willingness
8. Relocating

- a) constructing b) installing c) moving d) recalling
9. Engage
a) activate b) administer c) contribute d) join
10. Raised
a) gathered b) humiliated c) permitted d) reared
11. Endure
a) get on well b) get rid of c) look down on d) put up with
12. Countless
a) crucial b) enraged c) innumerable d) invaluable
13. Endeavors
a) assessments b) efforts c) intentions d) purposes
14. Fragments
a) masses b) panes c) particles d) traces
15. Dedication
a) collaboration b) commitment c) enthusiasm d) evasion
16. Denounced
a) validated b) condemned c) embraced d) eliminated
17. Conferred
a) congratulated b) enchanted c) granted d) possessed
18. Whirl
a) collapse b) glitter c) meander d) spin
19. Unified
a) cohesive b) indignant c) powerful d) separate
20. Venture
a) advance b) matriculate c) procrastinate d) sustain

Exercise 2

Choose the word that is most nearly the OPPOSITE in meaning as the given word

1. Doleful
a) mournful b) dismal c) beautiful d) Sad
2. Expanded
a) constricted b) contracted c) condensed d) compressed
3. Vulnerable
a) impregnable b) staunch c) resilient d) unbreakable

English

4. Diffidence
a) trust b) faith c) conceit d) self-confidence
5. Hostile
a) warlike b) insecure c) antagonistic d) friendly
6. Vapid
a) vivacious b) versatile c) insipid d) virtual
7. Flagrant
a) covert b) obscure c) flattering d) slapstick
8. Obstreperous
a) naughty b) clamorous c) obstinate d) subtle
9. Stale
a) fresh b) original c) new d) tedious
10. Reprimand
a) reproach b) commendation c) reproof d) defined
11. stingy
a) liberal b) cheap c) generous d) charitable
12. Lauded
a) praise b) applaud c) extol d) censure
13. Amalgamated
a) integrate b) separate c) simple d) incorporate
14. Compendium
a) summary b) augmentation c) precise d) overview
15. Stint
a) reduce b) spend c) cut down on d) limit
16. Yore
a) long ago b) future c) of old d) antiquity
17. Kindled
a) glow b) fire c) extinguished d) light.
18. Vivacious
a) spirited b) lively c) enthusiasm d) listless
19. Anarchy
a) disorder b) order c) lawlessness d) chaos
20. disparage
A) discredit B) mock C) praise D) ridicule

Exercise 3

Find the synonym or the antonym pair from the given set of words.

1. A) endeavors b) assessments c) efforts d) intentions
i) a-b ii) b-c iii) b-d iv) a-d v) a-c
2. A) panes b) particles c) traces d) fragments
i) b-d ii) a-b iii) c-d iv) a-d v) b-c
3. a) benevolent b) vital c) essential d) efficient
i) a-b ii) b-c iii) b-d iv) c-d v) a-d
4. a) allied b) combined c) amicable d) faithful
i) a-c ii) b-d iii) c-d iv) a-b v) b-c
5. a) immigrants b) pioneers c) incomers d) refugees
i) c-d ii) b-d iii) b-a iv) a-c v) a-d
6. a) revive b) enhanced c) hasten d) decimate
i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-d v) b-d
7. a) remnants b) remembered c) foods d) whole
i) c-d ii) b-d iii) b-c iv) a-c v) a-d
8. a) sharp b) tasteful c) tangible d) abstract
i) a-b ii) c-d iii) b-c iv) c-d v) a-d
9. a) warning b) finance c) surplus d) scarcity
i) a-d ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-c v) b-d
10. a) incompetence b) dexterity c) genocide d) determination
i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-d v) b-d
11. a) flair b) timidity c) daring d) massacre
i) b-d ii) c-d iii) a-c iv) a-b v) b-c
12. a) banned b) liberty c) servitude d) adultery
i) a-c ii) b-c iii) a-d iv) c-d v) b-d

English

13. a) congratulated b) enchanted c) granted d) conferred

i) b-d ii) c-a iii) a-b iv) c-d v) b-c

14. a) whirl b) meander c) collapse d) spin

i) a-b ii) b-s iii) c-d iv) b-d v) a-d

15. a) mitigate b) intensify c) disobey d) devastate

i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-d v) b-d

16. a) lucrative b) vigor c) gigantic d) unprofitable

i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-c v) a-d

17. a) inculcate b) inoculate c) vaccinate d) preserve

i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-d v) a-c

18. a) owe b) withdraw c) provide d) endow

i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-c v) b-d

19. a) thrifty b) humble c) prudent d) powerful

i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-c v) a-d

20. a) lackluster b) zealous c) grateful d) influence

i) a-b ii) b-c iii) c-d iv) a-c v) a-d

Answer Key

Exercise 1	Exercise 2	Exercise 2
1. a	1. c	1. v
2. b	2. b	2. v
3. c	3. a	3. ii
4. c	4. d	4. iv
5. a	5. d	5. iv
6. a	6. a	6. iv
7. a	7. a	7. v
8. c	8. d	8. iv
9. d	9. a	9. iii
10.d	10.b	10.i
11.d	11.c	11.v
12.c	12.d	12.ii
13.b	13.b	13.iv
14.c	14.b	14.v
15.b	15.B	15.i
16.b	16.B	16.v
17.c	17.C	17.ii
18.d	18.D	18.iii
19.a	19.B	19.iv
20.a	20.C	20.i