

VOCABULARY BUILDING

English language contains an enormous and ever-growing numbers of words. You should enhance your vocabulary

Why Vocabulary Matters

- Improves communication skills
- Boosts reading comprehension
- Helps in exams and placement tests
- Enhances writing and speaking confidence



Easy and Effective Techniques to Boost Your Word Power

- **Read Widely**
 - Read books, newspapers, blogs, articles
 - Exposure to different topics and styles
 - Note down unfamiliar words



- **Learn Roots and Affixes**
 - Prefixes (un-, re-, dis-)
 - Suffixes (-ful, -less, -tion)
 - Helps decode new words
 - Practice synonyms & antonyms
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- **Use Mnemonics**
- Memory aids for tricky words
- Create your own funny stories or images

- **Practice Daily**
- Use new words in writing or speaking
- Keep a vocabulary journal
- Set realistic goals (5 words/day)

ROOT WORDS

- The base part of a word that carries the core meaning.
- Many English words come from Latin or Greek roots.
- By learning roots, you can often guess the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Prefixes and Suffixes

What Are They?

- **Prefix:** A group of letters added **to the beginning** of a word to change its meaning.
- **Suffix:** A group of letters added **to the end** of a word to change its meaning or function (like turning a noun into an adjective).

Common Root Words with Meaning & Examples

Root	Meaning	Examples
aqua	water	aquarium, aquatic, aqueduct
bio	life	biology, biography, biosphere
chron	time	chronological, synchronize
dict	speak, say	predict, dictionary, verdict
geo	earth	geography, geology, geothermal
graph	write	autograph, photograph, graph
phon	sound	telephone, symphony, phonics

Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un-	not, opposite	unhappy, uncertain, unfair
re-	again	rewrite, redo, replay
pre-	before	preview, prehistoric, prepare
dis-	not, opposite	disagree, disconnect, dishonest
mis-	wrongly	misunderstand, misplace, misuse

Common Suffixes

Suffix	Function	Examples
-able / -ible	able to be	readable, incredible
-er / -or	person who does	teacher, actor
-ful	full of	joyful, helpful
-less	without	careless, hopeless
-ness	state or quality of	happiness, sadness
-ment	action or process	enjoyment, movement
-tion / -sion	act or state	celebration, decision



SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

- **Don't Underestimate the Power of Words!**
- Mastering synonyms and antonyms is a surefire way to boost your vocabulary and excel in competitive exams. Make them a regular part of your study routine, and you'll be well on your way to success!

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have the **same or very similar meanings**. They may not be the same, but they can often be used **interchangeably** depending on the context.

1. Perfect Synonyms

Words that have **the same meaning** and can be used **interchangeably** in all contexts.

Examples:

- Begin ↔ Start
- Huge ↔ Enormous
- End ↔ Finish

 *Can replace each other in any sentence without changing the meaning.*

2. Near Synonyms

Words that have **similar meanings** but **may not fit in all contexts**.

Examples:

- Look ↔ Glance (subtle difference in intent)
- Smart ↔ Clever (can vary based on region or tone)
- Happy ↔ Satisfied (happy = emotional; satisfied = content)

🟡 *Can replace each other in **some** contexts, but not always.*

3. Contextual Synonyms

Words that act as synonyms **only in certain contexts or sentences**.

Examples:

- Bright ↔ Smart (*“She’s a bright student.”*)
- Cold ↔ Distant (*“He gave a cold reply.”*)
- Heavy ↔ Intense (*“Heavy rain” vs “intense effort”*)

🟦 *These depend on **situation, tone, and intent**.*

ANTONYMS

1. Gradable Antonyms

- Represent **opposite ends of a scale**
- Can have degrees in between
Example: Hot ↔ Cold (warm, cool, lukewarm in between)

2. Complementary Antonyms

- **Absolute opposites** — no middle ground
Example: Dead ↔ Alive, Male ↔ Female, Win ↔ Lose

3. Relational Antonyms

- **Pairs where one implies the other**
Example: Buy ↔ Sell, Parent ↔ Child, Teacher ↔ Student

TIPS FOR IDENTIFYING ANSWERS

1. DIVIDE THE WORD INTO WORD PARTS
2. ELIMINATE ANTONYMS TO FIND SYNONYM
3. ELIMINATE SYNONYM TO FIND ANTONYM
4. ELIMINATE CHOICES WITH SAME MEANING
5. BE AWARE OF SECONDARY WORD MEANINGS