

GENERAL ENGLISH

WORD POWER: SYNONYMS

A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language is called a synonym, for example *happy* is a synonym of *joyful*. It is always better to learn a new word along with its synonyms. The variety of synonyms enables us to express our ideas more effectively in speaking or writing. But it can also confuse us sometimes. ఉదాహరణకు *English* లో *beautiful* అనే పదానికి *handsome*, *pretty*, *attractive*, *cute*, *gorgeous*, *alluring* ఇలా ఎన్నో synonyms ఉన్నాయి. కానీ అన్ని సందర్భాల్లో వీటిని ఒకదానికి మరొకటి ప్రత్యామ్నాయంగా ఉపయోగించలేం. 'Handsome young man' అంటూ కానీ 'beautiful young man' అనలేం కదా. అదేవిధంగా 'handsome salary', 'handsome majority' లాంటి phrases లో handsome కు బదులుగా beautiful ఉపయోగిస్తే అసంబద్ధంగా ఉంటుంది.

The correct use of a word depends on the context, tone and gravity of the message and also on the relationship with the person to whom it is addressed. One should read extensively and be in constant touch with the dictionary to clarify the meaning of the words and update one's word power. ఇప్పుడు *Competitive Exams* లో తరచుగా ఇచ్చే కొన్ని Synonyms చూద్దాం.

A LIST OF SYNONYMS

- ❖ **Abandon:** dump, ditch, discard, leave, relinquish, forsake
- ❖ **Abolish:** annihilate, exterminate, extinguish, eradicate
- ❖ **Abstain:** withdraw, withhold, refrain, desist
- ❖ **Abuse:** misuse, mistreat, ill-treat, maltreat
- ❖ **Adamant:** obstinate, stubborn, immovable, rigid
- ❖ **Adulterate:** contaminate, taint, spoil, pollute
- ❖ **Allure:** attract, tempt, fascinate, seduce
- ❖ **Amiable:** friendly, sociable, affable, cordial
- ❖ **Annoy:** irritate, bother, irk, vex, provoke, upset, anger
- ❖ **Apparent:** clear, clear-cut, distinct, evident, obvious
- ❖ **Audacity:** boldness, bravery, courage, cheek
- ❖ **Authentic:** bona fide, genuine, real, true, valid
- ❖ **Awe:** fear, dread, fright, wonder, admiration
- ❖ **Baffle:** confuse, perplex, bewilder, puzzle
- ❖ **Banish:** exile, expel, expatriate, deport, extradite
- ❖ **Barbaric:** unkind, savage, cruel, wicked, vicious, uncivilized
- ❖ **Barren:** infertile, sterile, unfruitful, unproductive
- ❖ **Benevolent:** charitable, philanthropic, kind, generous, benign
- ❖ **Bias:** prejudice, partiality, favouritism

- ❖ **Bizarre:** strange, peculiar, odd, uncanny, unusual, weird
- ❖ **Brevity:** shortness, briefness, conciseness, pithiness
- ❖ **Brisk:** fast, quick, hurried, swift, rapid
- ❖ **Calamity:** disaster, catastrophe, mishap, misfortune, tragedy
- ❖ **Candid:** frank, open, honest, truthful, sincere, straight
- ❖ **Chaos:** disorder, confusion, anarchy, pandemonium, unruliness
- ❖ **Conceit:** pride, egoism, egotism, narcissism, vanity
- ❖ **Confer:** award, bestow, present, grant
- ❖ **Contrary:** opposing, different, divergent, dissimilar
- ❖ **Crisis:** disaster, calamity, emergency, predicament
- ❖ **Dawn:** sunrise, day-break, beginning, start, commence
- ❖ **Deceive:** betray, mislead, beguile, hoodwink, bamboozle
- ❖ **Decisive:** important, conclusive, vital, crucial, key
- ❖ **Delicious:** tasty, delectable, luscious, scrumptious, yummy
- ❖ **Deny:** refuse, refute, reject, rebuff, contradict
- ❖ **Despise:** loathe, hate, disdain, scorn, detest, abhor
- ❖ **Disgust:** revulsion, repugnance, aversion, abhorrence, loathing
- ❖ **Dismay:** shock, panic, alarm, appal, horrify
- ❖ **Dissuade:** deter, discourage, prevent, disincline
- ❖ **Docile:** submissive, meek, obedient, compliant, passive
- ❖ **Doctrine:** dogma, tenet, principle, policy
- ❖ **Eager:** enthusiastic, avid, keen, agog
- ❖ **Ecstasy:** joy, happiness, rapture, delight, bliss, elation, euphoria
- ❖ **Elegance:** style, grace, polish, urbanity, sophistication
- ❖ **Embarrass:** humiliate, abash, demean, chagrin, discomfit
- ❖ **Enormous:** immense, huge, gigantic, giant, colossal, mammoth
- ❖ **Equanimity:** composure, calmness, level-headedness, sang-froid
- ❖ **Equivocal:** vague, ambiguous, ambivalent, oblique, unclear, evasive
- ❖ **Estrange:** alienate, disaffect, alienate, antagonise
- ❖ **Fatal:** deadly, mortal, lethal, terminal
- ❖ **Feeble:** weak, frail, thin, delicate, shabby
- ❖ **Ferocious:** fierce, violent, cruel, brutal, wild, unruly
- ❖ **Fertile:** fecund, fruitful, productive, prolific

- ❖ **Fickle:** indecisive, inconsistent, changeable, vacillating, capricious
- ❖ **Fidelity:** allegiance, reliability, loyalty, faithfulness
- ❖ **Fragile:** weak, breakable, delicate, brittle, flimsy
- ❖ **Fugitive:** escapee, deserter, renegade, refugee, runaway
- ❖ **Genuine:** real, authentic, true, unadulterated, actual, legitimate
- ❖ **Ghastly:** terrible, appalling, frightening, horrible, macabre
- ❖ **Gracious:** cordial, genial, sociable, affable, congenial
- ❖ **Hamper:** hinder, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard, foil, curb
- ❖ **Havoc:** chaos, mayhem, disaster, devastation, catastrophe
- ❖ **Hostile:** antagonistic, aggressive, intimidating, unfriendly
- ❖ **Hypocrisy:** insincerity, double standards, pretence, duplicity
- ❖ **Illegal:** unlawful, prohibited, banned, illegitimate, illicit
- ❖ **Illegible:** unreadable, scribbled, scrawled, indecipherable
- ❖ **Impetuous:** heedless, hasty, precipitate, sudden, rash, reckless
- ❖ **Impostor:** quack, faker, charlatan, trickster, fraudster, hoaxer
- ❖ **Incite:** provoke, instigate, foment, stimulate
- ❖ **Incline:** bias, dispose, predispose, prejudice
- ❖ **Incredible:** unbelievable, implausible, inconceivable, far-fetched
- ❖ **Infinite:** boundless, unlimited, eternal, interminable, endless
- ❖ **Innate:** inborn, inherent, inbred, intrinsic, congenital, hereditary
- ❖ **Insanity:** lunacy, madness, mania, dementia
- ❖ **Intimidate:** frighten, threaten, scare, bully, terrify, alarm, terrorize
- ❖ **Jealous:** covetous, envious, green-eyed
- ❖ **Jolly:** cheerful, happy, jovial, merry, joyful, exuberant, jaunty
- ❖ **Knave:** rogue, cheat, villain, scoundrel
- ❖ **Latent:** dormant, hidden, covert, concealed, quiescent
- ❖ **Lavish:** abundant, sumptuous, bountiful, prolific, luxurious, profuse
- ❖ **Lenient:** compassionate, merciful, easy-going, sparing, forgiving, moderate
- ❖ **Lethargy:** sluggishness, lassitude, torpor, indolence, languor, weariness
- ❖ **Liable:** answerable, responsible, accountable, bound
- ❖ **Linger:** stay, remain, loiter, dawdle, dally
- ❖ **Lucid:** clear, articulate, eloquent, plain, vivid
- ❖ **Lunacy:** delusion, insanity, madness, psychosis, dementia, derangement

- ❖ **Lure:** entice, inveigle, decoy, tempt, seduce, induce, attract, cajole
- ❖ **Meagre:** inadequate, sparse, skimpy, scanty, paltry
- ❖ **Meticulous:** careful, painstaking, scrupulous, diligent, conscientious, punctilious
- ❖ **Misfortune:** bad luck, adversity, mishap, mischance, disaster, calamity
- ❖ **Mitigate:** alleviate, relieve, lessen, diminish, reduce, weaken, soothe
- ❖ **Modest:** humble, courteous, meek, diffident, self-effacing
- ❖ **Naive:** simple, ingenuous, unsophisticated, natural, unaffected, innocent
- ❖ **Novice:** tyro, beginner, learner, apprentice, new comer
- ❖ **Nuance:** subtle difference, fine distinction, gradation, shade, degree
- ❖ **Nurture:** care for, look after, take care of, rare, raise, cultivate, foster
- ❖ **Obligation:** commitment, responsibility, duty, compulsion
- ❖ **Obstacle:** obstruction, barrier, hurdle, block, hindrance, impediment, snag
- ❖ **Obstinate:** stubborn, headstrong, inflexible, stiff-necked, bull-headed, pigheaded
- ❖ **Obvious:** clear, evident, apparent, noticeable, visible
- ❖ **Offspring:** progeny, children, descendant, young, brood
- ❖ **Opaque:** cloudy, filmy, misty, blurred, smeared, thick, obscure, unclear
- ❖ **Outrage:** fury, anger, rage, enrage, wrath, ire, annoyance, indignation, infuriate
- ❖ **Parsimonious:** thrifty, economical, frugal, mean, miserly, niggardly, penurious
- ❖ **Pedantic:** over scrupulous, academic, bookish, donnish, scholastic, meticulous
- ❖ **Peerless:** matchless, unrivalled, unequalled
- ❖ **Pensive:** contemplative, reflective, meditative, thoughtful, pondering, musing
- ❖ **Perseverance:** persistence, determination, tenacity, resolve
- ❖ **Pompous:** self-important, haughty, arrogant, imperious, domineering
- ❖ **Ponder:** meditate, deliberate, ruminate, mull, muse
- ❖ **Precarious:** dangerous, hazardous, perilous, unsafe, risky, deceptive, unreliable
- ❖ **Predicament:** plight, difficult situation, quandary, dilemma, mess, crisis
- ❖ **Presume:** presuppose, postulate, assume, imagine, expect, speculate, postulate
- ❖ **Provoke:** incite, excite, instigate, stimulate, arouse
- ❖ **Quest:** search, hunt, pursuit, mission, expedition

PRACTICE TEST

Directions (1 – 5): Choose the option which is nearest in meaning to the key word.

1. Docile

1) Arrogant

2) Clever

3) Obedient

4) Confident

2. Incite
1) Plead 2) Quote 3) Dissuade 4) Provoke
3. Meagre
1) Frugal 2) Abundan 3) Trivial 4) Wicked
4. Veteran
1) Multi-talented 2) Experienced 3) Apprentice 4) Trickster
5. Sycophant
1) Pessimist 2) Flatterer 3) Optimist 4) Shrewd

Directions (6 – 10): Choose the option which is nearest in meaning to the underlined word of each sentence.

6. She made a futile attempt to become an IAS officer.
1) foolish 2) clever 3) sincere 4) unsuccessful
7. The sight filled me with awe
1) wonder 2) joy 3) sadness 4) aversion
8. He is at the zenith of his career
1) end 2) nadir 3) peak 4) beginning
9. We were in a vulnerable position
1) strong 2) risky 3) respected 4) safe
10. The course aims at exploiting the latent talents of participants
1) genuine 2) creative 3) new 4) hidden

ANSWERS

1-3; 2-4; 3-1; 4-2; 5-2; 6-4; 7-1; 8-3; 9-2; 10-4.

రచయిత: సి.వి.ఎస్. రవీంద్రనాథ్