

**Synonyms** are the words which have the same meaning. They are the opposite of Antonyms. Antonyms are the words which are opposite to each other in meaning, while Synonyms are the words which are **similar to each other in meaning**. But a close study would reveal that though the synonyms are similar in meaning, there is always a shade of difference in their intention and application. Therefore, a student must understand the minute distinction between their meanings to be able to use them correctly. We give below a list of popular Synonyms explaining the delicate difference in their meanings and their use in sentences.

1. **Home**—(dwelling place with all its happy associations such as furnishings, family, love, etc.)

- He is returning home after many years.

**House**—(dwelling place, building only)

- He has built a big house.

2. **Hear**—(in the ordinary sense)

- We could hear them talking.

**Listen**—(implies careful attention)

- The whole class will listen to you.

3. **Infectious**—(refers to a disease that spreads through air or water)

- Cholera is an infectious disease.

**Contagious**—(a disease that spreads by physical contact)

- Small-pox is a contagious disease.

4. **Idle**—(inactive or without work through circumstances)

- He has been sitting idle for several months now.

**Lazy**—(inactive by habit or temperament)

- He is too lazy to finish his work in time.

5. **Ill**—(not in health)

- He is ill these days.

**Sick**—(under the effect of some disease)

- A sick man must take his medicine regularly.

6. **Mistake**—(misunderstanding or miscalculation)

- They mistake him for a gentleman.

- Don't commit such a mistake again.

**Blunder**—(serious or gross mistake)

- You would be committing a blunder if you don't report the matter to the police.

**Error**—(departure from established rules or practice).

- Avoid grammatical errors.

7. **Oral**—(in the spoken form)

- The teacher took an oral test.

**Verbal**—(in words only as against in writing)

- Let me have your statement in writing; I shall not accept your verbal assurance.

8. **Presume**—(to believe what we think to be true)

- I presume he is an honest man.

**Assume**—(in matters that ought to be true)

- I assume my father will send me money in time.

9. **Possible**—(not contrary to natural conditions or reason)

- If we drive a little faster, it is possible we may reach before sunset.

**Probable**—(what may happen)

- It is probable that the examination may be postponed.

- 10. Praise**—(refers to one's actions)  
 ● We must praise his efforts.  
**Admire**—(refers to one's qualities or possessions)  
 ● We must admire his courage.
- 11. Prohibit**—(legal or official restriction)  
 ● Drinking is prohibited here.  
**Forbid**—(in personal or private matters)  
 ● My father forbids me to leave today.
- 12. Recollect**—(call to mind through some efforts)  
 ● Can you recollect what he said ?  
**Remember**—(call to mind with very little or no efforts)  
 ● I remember we met last month.
- 13. Regret**—(unhappiness over what one has done or left undone)  
 ● To my great regret, I have suspended him.  
**Sorrow**—(refers to some loss or evil)  
 ● His wife's death has plunged him into deep sorrow.
- 14. Say**—(to assert; to declare)  
 ● I say I have not done it.  
**Speak**—(to express in the ordinary way)  
 ● He speaks very fast.  
**Tell**—(to inform; to narrate)  
 ● He will tell you the whole story.
- 15. See**—(without any effort)  
 ● We see greenery all around us.  
**Look**—(with effort or intention)  
 ● Please look at me.  
**Watch**—(to observe closely)  
 ● You must watch his movements carefully.
- 16. Scenery**—(landscape)  
 ● Every visitor admires the scenery of Kashmir.  
**Scene**—(Place or spot of some action or occurrence)  
 ● He was present at the scene of accident.
- 17. Vacant**—(refers to a thing or situation which is at present free or unoccupied but which was previously filled)  
 ● The post of the accountant has fallen vacant.  
**Empty**—(where there is nothing)  
 ● The room is empty.
- 18. Assent**—(relates to matters of judgment)  
 ● The President has given his assent to the bill.  
**Consent**—(relates to matters of conduct)  
 ● My father has given his consent to my proposal.
- 19. Allow**—(denotes a negative action and means abstain from refusal)  
 ● I can't allow you to go there  
**Permit**—(denotes a positive action and means to give a decided assent)  
 ● My parents have permitted me to join the Navy.
- 20. Abstain**—(from a thing)  
 ● You must abstain from hard drinks.  
**Refrain**—(from an action)  
 ● You are refrained from taking any further action.
- 21. Avenge**—(just punishment on evil-doers)  
 ● I shall avenge my father's death upon the murderer.  
**Revenge**—(to inflict pain or injury out of resentment or grudge)  
 ● I will certainly revenge myself on him for this insult.
- 22. Admit**—(to acknowledge or accept)  
 ● I admit my fault.  
**Confess**—(to acknowledge responsibility or guilt)  
 ● He confessed his involvement in the crime.
- 23. Anger**—(sudden feeling of displeasure)  
 ● He showed much anger at his irresponsible behaviour.  
**Resentment**—(a lasting feeling of displeasure)  
 ● He bears resentment against me for a cause not known to me.
- 24. Answer**—(a question is answered)  
 ● Answer any five questions.

**Reply**—(a letter or a charge is replied)

- You have to reply these charges within a week.

**25. Attain**—(to get by exertion or labour)

- He has attained proficiency in English.

**Acquire**—(to have some hold permanently)

- He has acquired one more house.

**26. Ancient**—(opposed to modern)

- This is an ancient fort.

**Old**—(opposed to young or new)

- He deals in old books.

**27. Ability**—(power to do something physical or intellectual)

- He has remarkable ability to guide you in this field.

**Capacity**—(power to achieve, hold or contain)

1. He has the capacity to consume one full bottle of whisky.
2. This hall has a seating capacity for two hundred people.

**28. Astonishment**—(extreme surprise)

- I was astonished to see a crowd of people standing before my gate.

**Surprise**—(due to something new or unexpected)

- I was surprised to find my father waiting for me in my room.

**Wonder**—(surprise mixed with admiration)

- I wondered at her great skill in dancing.

**29. Bravery**—(physical)

- He showed much bravery in challenging the dacoits.

**Courage**—(born of reason and reflection)

- He showed much courage in refusing to pay any hush money.

**Valour**—(highest quality of courage)

- Maharana Pratap was the very model of bravery.

**Boldness**—(short-lived courage for an occasion)

- He exhibited much boldness in facing the critical situation.

**Daring**—(courage with rashness)

- He showed much daring in jumping into the flooded river.

**30. Battle**—(a single contest between two opposing armies)

- The battle of Haldighati was fought between Maharana Pratap and the Mughals.

**War**—(a series of contests between two opposing armies)

- The First World War started in 1914.

**Fight**—(a combat between a small number of persons)

- There was a fierce fight between the police and the dacoits.

**31. Begin**—(used on all occasions)

- Let us begin the match.

**Commence**—(used only in official and formal language)

- The University examinations commence on April 15.

**Start**—(implies an idea of an actual physical motion)

- Now the match starts.

**32. Beautiful**—(implies certain degree of delicacy, not applicable to men)

- She is a very beautiful girl.

**Hadsome**—(is used for men)

- He is a handsome young man.

**33. Custom**—(generally refers to the repeated action of many persons, a community, a society, a race, etc.)

- Community feast after death is a bad custom in India.

**Habit**—(is applicable when we are speaking of just one person)

- He is in the habit of reading late in the night.

**34. Cite**—(is used for things or persons)

- I can cite the authority of Tagore on this point.

**Quote**—(is used for things only)

- I quote a passage from Milton.

**35. Compulsion**—(is physical)

- I have to work here under compulsion.

- Obligation**—(is moral)  
 ● I am under obligation to vote for him.
- 36. Confer**—(conferring is an act of authority)  
 ● The Chancellor will confer the Degrees.  
**Bestow**—(bestowing is an act of generosity or charity)  
 ● I bestow an old-age pension on you.
- 37. Crime**—(an offence against the law)  
 ● Smuggling is a crime.  
**Vice**—(an offence against morals)  
 ● Smoking is a vice.  
**Sin**—(an offence against the law of God or religious law)  
 ● Illicit love is a sin.
- 38. Ceiling**—(the inner side of a roof)  
 ● The colour of our ceiling is white.  
**Roof**—(the entire covering of a room or house)  
 ● The roof is leaking.
- 39. Character**—(mental or moral nature)  
 ● He is a man of high character.  
**Conduct**—(one's actions)  
 ● His conduct is praiseworthy.
- 40. Contentment**—(a state of mind in which one does not wish for more)  
 ● Contentment is the basis of happiness.  
**Satisfaction**—(fulfilment of one's expectations)  
 ● The achievement of my son has given me full satisfaction.
- 41. Cool**—(denotes a pleasant sensation)  
 ● A cool breeze is blowing.  
**Cold**—(denotes an unpleasant sensation)  
 ● The weather is very cold.
- 42. Defend**—(refers to present danger)  
 ● I can well defend myself against this charge.  
**Protect**—(refers to approaching danger)  
 ● We should have a strong army to protect our country against any attack.
- 43. Deny**—(refers to matters of fact or knowledge)  
 ● I forcefully deny my participation in this criminal act.
- Refuse**—(refers to matters of wish or request)  
 ● I refuse to accept your request.
- 44. Doubt**—(to doubt a fact or a statement)  
 ● I doubt his version of the incident.  
**Suspect**—(to suspect is to be inclined to think a thing untrue)  
 ● I suspect his honesty.
- 45. Discover**—(to find out a thing or country that existed before)  
 ● Columbus discovered America.  
**Invent**—(to create what did not exist before)  
 ● Wright Brothers invented the aeroplane.
- 46. Drown**—(refers to persons)  
 ● A man drowned in the river.  
**Sink**—(refers to things)  
 ● A boat sank in the river.
- 47. Desire**—(is used of that which is near at hand or in thought)  
 ● I have a keen desire to attend my friend's marriage.  
**Wish**—(is used of that which is remote)  
 ● I wish I could set up a large factory.  
**Want**—(is used of that which is lacking or absent)  
 ● The crops have dried up for want of rains.  
**Need**—(is used of that which is both lacking and necessary)  
 ● I urgently need a good dictionary.  
**Require**—(demand or ask for in words)  
 ● I require your personal help.
- 48. Envy**—(feeling uneasy at others' good fortune)  
 ● It is a common weakness to envy the good fortune of others.  
**Jealousy**—(Suspicious of rivalry, lack of trust)  
 ● He languishes under jealousy against all his friends.
- 49. Enough**—(relates to the quantity which one wishes to have)  
 ● This amount is enough for your purpose.

**Sufficient**—(relates to the use that is to be made of anything)

- There is sufficient milk for four cups of tea.

**50. Event**—(an important happening)

- Marriage is an important event in the life of every person.

**Incident**—(an ordinary happening)

- We forget many small incidents of life.

**Accident**—(an unexpected serious occurrence)

- Several persons were killed in the accident.

**51. Excuse**—(is used with reference to trifling matters)

- His illness is just an excuse for doing no work.

**Forgive**—(is used with reference to offences)

- Please forgive me for this mistake.

**Pardon**—(is used with reference to simpler offences)

- I beg your pardon for not bringing your book today.

**52. Famous**—(is used in a good sense)

- The Taj is a famous monument.

**Notorious**—(is used in a bad sense)

- A notorious dacoit has been killed.

**Renowned**—(is used for a high and dignified kind of reputation)

- Dr. Tagore was a renowned poet.

**53. Freedom**—(implies absence of restraint at the present moment)

- Everybody wants freedom.

**Liberty**—(implies freedom from previous restraint; undue freedom)

1. The convict was set at liberty.
2. Too much liberty is bad.

**54. Falsehood**—(something said or done with or without the idea of deceiving a man)

- He was guilty of falsehood when he said that he had completed all his work.

**Lie**—(speaking untrue words with the intention of deceiving others)

- He was certainly telling a lie when he said that he was the owner of the factory.

**55. Grateful**—(one who remains indebted for the kindness of a benefactor)

- I am grateful to my uncle for many favours.

**Thankful**—(one who cherishes the memory of the favours shown by one's benefactor)

- I shall always remain thankful to all my friends for their encouragement.

**56. Hope**—(is used when what we anticipate is very likely to happen)

- He has every hope of passing in the first division.

**Expect**—(is use when what we anticipate is good but not very certain. It refers to future)

- He expects to get some timely help from his uncle.

**57. Watch**—(to observe closely)

- You must watch his conduct very closely.

**Witness**—(is used of persons or events as evidences)

- My friend is an eye-witness of the whole incident.

**58. Sight**—(faculty of vision ; anything seen)

- It was indeed a horrible sight.

**Scenery**—(the view of landscape)

- The scenery of Kashmir is highly colourful.

**Scene**—(landscape, a place where an event or accident takes place)

- That is the scene where the battle was fought.

**59. Trade**—(it is business on either small or large scale)

- The trade of cotton cloth is on the decline.

**Commerce**—(it is always on a large scale, specially between countries)

- India's commerce with African countries is steadily increasing.

**60. Libel**—(unfavourable or dishonourable observations or defamation in written or printed form)

- I am suing this newspaper for libel against me.

**Slander**—(spreading defamation orally)

- He has been slandering me for no reason or rhyme.

**61. Place**—(to put a thing somewhere)

- Please place this chair in the lawn.

**Keep**—(to put something for a long time)

- I keep my books in my study room.

**62. Redress**—(relief or compensation as a matter of right or justice)

- The injured worker must get due redress from the factory.

**Relief**—(implies kindness or generosity)

- Immediate relief should be provided to the people in flood-affected areas.

**63. Rob**—(to take away by force)

- The dacoits robbed the whole family on the point of gun.

**Steal**—(to take away secretly)

- Here thieves may steal away even in day time.

**64. Reverence**—(deep respect, religious devotion)

- The Archbishop was held in high reverence.

**Respect**—(honour, high opinion)

- We all give him due respect for his scholarship.

**65. Illegal**—(deliberately against law)

- Smuggling of contraband articles is an illegal act.

**Unlawful**—(not in conformity with law)

- Don't do anything unlawful.