

BASIC SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH YOU SHOULD KNOW

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Basic Synonyms in English You Should Know

Synonyms are words that are similar, or have a related meaning, to another word. They can be lifesavers when you want to avoid repeating the same word over and over. Also, sometimes the word you have in mind might not be the most appropriate word, which is why finding the right synonym can come in handy.

The word comes from Ancient Greek *sýn* (σύν; "with") and *ónoma* (ὄνομα; "name"). An example of synonyms are the words *begin*, *start*, *commence*, and *initiate*. Words can be synonymous when meant in certain senses, even if they are not synonymous in all of their senses. For example, if one talks about a *long time* or an *extended time*, *long* and *extended* are synonymous within that context. Synonyms with exact meaning share a seme or denotational sememe, whereas those with inexactly similar meanings share a broader denotational or connotational sememe and thus overlap within a semantic field.



Occasionally, cuneiform text scribes encounter difficult or rare words. The list on this clay tablet explain such words. From the library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh (modern-day Ninawa Governorate, Iraq), northern Mesopotamia. Neo-Assyrian period, 7th century BCE. (The British Museum, London)

Word

Synonym

A	
about	approximately
abstract	summary
to accomplish	to achieve
to accumulate	to build up
to administer	to manage
to admit	to confess
almost	nearly
animated	lively
to annoy	to irritate, to bother
to answer	to reply
anyway	besides
apparent	obvious
to appear	to seem
applicable	relevant
appreciable	considerable

ardour	passion
arise	occur
aromatic	fragrant
to arrive	to reach
artful	crafty
association	organization
to assure	to guarantee
attractive	appealing
away	absent
awful	terrible
B	
backbone	spine
backside	behind, bottom
bad (not good)	poor, naughty
ballot	poll
to bear on sth.	to affect
to beat	to defeat
becoming	fitting
to begin	to start

to behave	to act
believable	plausible
belly	stomach
bendy	flexible
beneficiant	generous
beneficial	favourable
bid	tender
bizarre	weird
blameless	innocent
bloodbath	massacre
bloodless	cold
branch	department
brave	courageous
to bring sth. back	to reintroduce
to bring sth. on	to cause
to bring sb. up	to raise
brow	forehead
bum	backside, behind, bottom
business	commerce, trade

busy (telephone)	engaged
C	
candy	sweet
to categorize	to classify
to categorise	
charter	constitution
cheesy	corny, tacky
chiefly	mainly
choosy	picky
to chop	to cut
chorus	refrain
citation	quotation
to cite	to quote
class	lesson, course
clerk	receptionist
clever	intelligent
to close	to shut
coiffure	hairstyle
to collapse	to break down

to collect	to gather
comfort	consolation
comic	comedian
commencement	graduation
complete	total
completely	totally
concord	harmony
to condemn	to sentence
confederate	accomplice
to confine	to restrict
conflict	clash
to conform	to comply
to confuse	to mix up
to connect	to associate, to put through (telephone)
considerate	thoughtful
constancy	fidelity
constant	fixed
constitution	structure
construction (lit.)	interpretation

to consult	to refer to
contemporary	modern
continuous	continual
contrary	opposite
convention	conference
to convey	to communicate
to cope	to manage
correct	right
couch	sofa
crook	criminal
crusade	campaign
cube	dice
curative	healing
curler	roller
cussed	stubborn
D	
dash	sprint
daybreak	dawn
deceptive	misleading

decontrol	deregulate
dedicated	committed
to deduce	to infer
defective	faulty
deliberate	planned
deliberately	intentionally
delicate	fragile
to demonstrate	to protest
to denationalize	
to denationalise	to privatize
denims	jeans
to denote	to indicate, to represent
to deprave	to corrupt
depraved	wicked, evil
to desert	to abandon
deserted	abandoned
destiny	fate
detached	indifferent
devil	satan

dicy	risky
to differentiate	to distinguish
to diminish	to decrease
disadvantaged	deprived
disagreeable	unpleasant
to disappear	to vanish
disaster	catastrophe
to disclaim	to deny
to disclose	to reveal
discount	reduction
disgrace	shame
domesticate	cultivate
dossier	file
dubious	doubtful
dull (person)	stupid
E	
eager	keen
earth	soil
economic	profitable

egocentric	selfish
to elevate	to raise, to promote
to emphasise	to stress
to emphasize	
to encounter	to come across
enormous	huge, immense
to enquire	to investigate
equity	fairness
especially	particularly
essential	fundamental
to establish	to set up
to evaluate	to assess
everlasting	eternal
exactly	precisely
except	apart from
to expire	to run out
to explode	to blow up
extra	additional
F	

to fabricate	to manufacture
famous	famed, renowned
fanatic	enthusiast
fantastic	great, brilliant
to float	to drift
fool	idiot
foolish	silly
forehead	brow
to foretell	to predict
formerly	previously
fortunate	lucky
foxy	cunning
foyer	lobby
fragrance	perfume
French dressing	vinaigrette
to function	to operate
Word	Synonym
G	
garbage	rubbish

garbage can	trashcan
gay	homosexual
to glitter	to sparkle
to grab	to seize
grasping	greedy
gratis	free of charge
gratuity	tip
gravestone	headstone
to grouse	to grumble
gut	intestine
H	
hall	corridor
to hand sth. out	to distribute
handsome	good-looking
hang-out	haunt
happily	fortunately
hard	tough
hashish	cannabis
to hawk	to peddle

to hazard	to endanger
hearsay	rumour
hermetic	airtight
highbrow	intellectual
hint	trace, tip
hole	gap
home	domestic
homicide	murder
housebreaking	burglary
hunger	starvation
to hurry	to rush
hypothesis	speculation
I	
idler	loafer
if	whether
to ignore	to disregard
illiberal	intolerant
to illuminate	to clarify; to light up
to illustrate	to demonstrate

to imagine	to suppose, to assume
to imitate	to mimic
immediate	instant
immobile	motionless
immoderate	excessive
immodest	conceited
to impact	to affect
impartial	neutral
impasse	deadlock
impassive	emotionless
to impeach	to question
impediment	obstacle
imperative	vital
impolite	rude
incidentally	by the way
inconsiderate	thoughtless
indisputable	undeniable
infamous	notorious
infantile	childish

to infect	to contaminate
inflexible	rigid
inflow	influx
informal	casual
infrequent	rare
inheritor	heir
innocent	harmless
insolvent	bankrupt
to inspect	to examine
instinct	intuition
instructions	directions
insufferable	unbearable
insufficient	inadequate
insupportable	intolerable
insurgent	rebel
intellectual	mental
to intend	to mean
to intensify	to heighten
interplay	interaction

inventory	stock
invoice	bill
to involve	to entail
isolated	loney
J	
jealous	envious
joy	delight
K	
knowingly	deliberately
L	
lacking	missing
last	final
leading	main
to learn	to memorize
legitimate	valid, lega
lethal	deadly
liveable	habitable
livid	furious
loopy	crazy

lousy	awful
lucid	clear
M	
mackintosh	waterproof coat
madness	insanity
magician	conjuror
magistrate	Justice of the Peace
to magnify	to exaggerate
to maintain	to preserve
manmade	artificial
mannequin	model
material	fabric
matters	things
maybe	perhaps, possibly
in the meantime	meanwhile
measure	degree
meeting	assembly
mendacity	lying
merciless	cruel

middleman	intermediary
midway	halfway
to migrate	emigrate
mild	gentle
to mimic	to imitate
mind	intellect
mindless	senseless
to minimize	to play down
to mirror	to reflect
to misconceive	to misunderstand
miserable	depressing
misery	distress
misread	misinterpret
missing	lost
mistrust	distrust
moment	occasion
moderately	reasonably
modern	contemporary
more and more	increasingly

moreover	in addition
movie	film
murderer	assassin
N	
naked	bare
nameless	anonymous
napkin	serviette
to narrate	to relate
a narrative	a story
a native	a local
to near	to approach
necessary	essential
nightfall	dusk
nobility	the Aristocracy
to nominate	to appoint
non-stop	continuous
noon	midday
noted	famous
to notify	to inform

notwithstanding	however
nugatory	worthless
numerous	many
O	
obdurate	stubborn
object	thing
obligatory	compulsory
oblique	indirect
omnipotent	all-powerful
obsolete	out of date
off-season	low season
to operate	to function
organic	biological
ornament	decoration
outside	external
to overhaul	to overtake
to overlook	to miss
overseas	abroad
to oversee	to supervise

P

painting	portray
paper money	notes
particular	specific
passable	satisfactory
pattern	sample
peaceable	peaceful
perception	insight
phantasm	illusion
pocket book	notebook
poisonous	toxic
possibility	opportunity
post-mortem	autopsy
practically	virtually
praise	compliment
precedence	priority
precept	principle
precis	summary
pressing	urgent

previous	preceding
priority	precedence
prompt	immediate
prosperous	affluent
to provide	to supply
provided	if
to put sth. back	to postpone
Q	
to quake	to tremble
quite	fairly
R	
reasonable	fair
to receive	to get
refrain	chorus
reliable	dependable
religious	devout
remainder	the rest
remark	comment
reminiscence	memory

remorse	regret
remoted	isolated
removable	detachable
to renew	to resume
to renounce	to give up
repute	reputation
to respond	to reply
revolting	disgusting
rubbish	nonsense
rude	impolite
to rue	to regret
S	
sacristy	vestry
satisfied	convinced
scarcity	shortage
scrumptious	delicious
second	moment
to select	to choose
selection	choice

self-assured	confident
signal	sign
significant	meaningful
silly	foolish
sincere	honest
skull	cranium
soiled	dirty
spotlight	highlight
stable	steady
steady	regular
stupid	silly
substantially	considerably
suggest	propose
sundown	sunset
sunrise	dawn
sure	certain
surroundings	environment
to survive	to outlive
to symbolize	to represent

T	
tailored	tailor-made
temper	mood
terror	terrorism
testament	testimony
today	nowadays
torpid	lethargic
touchdown	landing
touchy	sensitive
to transform	to convert
transitory	temporary
transparent	obvious
trustworthy	reliable
twister	tornado
twosome	pair
U	
ultimate	final
uncared for	neglected
uncommon	unusual

uncooked	raw
undeniable	indisputable
understandable	comprehensible
unforeseen	unexpected
unfortunate	unlucky
unhurt	unharmed
uninjured	unhurt
unlawful	illegal
unmarried	single
unstated	unspoken
untimely	premature
untrue	unfaithful
unusual	strange
unvoiced	voiceless
uprising	rebellion
usually	generally, normally
v	
vacancy	emptiness
to vacuum	to Hoover

vague	indistinct
vain	useless
valueless	worthless
to vanquish	to conquer
to vary	to differ
vast	huge
virtue	advantage
to visualize	to imagine
W	
warranty	guarantee
well mannered	polite
well timed	timely
winery	vineyard
to withstand	to resist
Z	
zenith	peak