

**Oberlin High School**  
**Department of Modern Languages**  
**English Language Worksheet**  
**Grade 11**  
**Synonyms and Antonyms**

Name:

Grade:

Date:

### Synonyms and Antonyms

#### Synonym

A **synonym** is a word that means exactly the same as, or **very nearly the same as**, another word in the same language. For example, "close" is a synonym of "shut".

Note that a synonym may share an identical meaning with another word, but the two words are not necessarily interchangeable. For example, "blow up" and "explode" have the same meaning, but "blow up" is informal (used more in speech) and "explode" is more formal (used more in writing and careful speech).

Here are some more examples of synonyms:

synonyms			part of speech
close	shut		verb
blow up	explode		verb

blow up	inflate		verb
shallow	superficial		adjective
eager	earnest	keen	adjective
spontaneous	impromptu	unplanned	adjective

You can find synonyms in a synonym dictionary or thesaurus.

### Antonym

An **antonym** is a word that means the **opposite** of another word. For example "bad" is an antonym of "good". Here are some more examples:

prefix	antonyms		part of speech
	good	bad	adjective
	small	big	adjective
	easy	hard difficult	adjective
	soft	hard	adjective

	male	female	adjective noun
	up	down	preposition adverb
	go	come	verb
made by adding prefix un-	able	unable	adjective
	selfish	unselfish	adjective
	do	undo	verb
made by adding prefix in-	decent	indecent	adjective
	tolerant	intolerant	adjective
	human	inhuman	adjective
made by adding prefix non-	conformist	nonconformist	adjective noun
	essential	nonessential	adjective

			noun
	sense	nonsense	noun

**Synonyms and Antonyms**

Synonyms mean nearly the same thing; antonyms mean the opposite.

Example: accelerate and quicken are synonyms accelerate and decelerate are antonyms

**Write a word that is a synonym for the underlined word in each sentence. If you do not know a synonym, consult a reference source, such as a thesaurus.**

1. I really do **abhor** Brussels sprouts. \_\_\_\_\_

2. The water on the lake was so **placid** that it looked like a mirror. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Elizabeth tried to appear graceful, but the high-heeled shoes **hampered** her efforts.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. I think that adding curtains to the windows will really **enhance** our classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. I explained to Mr. Harris about my missing homework, but he said my story wasn't **credible**.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. During the football game, Kelvin suffered a **laceration** to his elbow. \_\_\_\_\_

7. If you want to pass the class, you should **heed** my advice to study. \_\_\_\_\_

**Write a word that is an antonym for the given word. If you do not know an antonym, consult a reference source, such as a thesaurus.**

8. Blatant \_\_\_\_\_

9. Oblivious \_\_\_\_\_

10. Tentative \_\_\_\_\_

11. Accolade \_\_\_\_\_

12. Pliable \_\_\_\_\_

13. Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

14. Hasten \_\_\_\_\_