

Synonyms

~ English Vocabulary · Competitive Exams ~



A **synonym** is a word with the **same or nearly the same meaning** as another.

Tested as: "Choose the word closest in meaning to **Abundant**" → **Plentiful**.

Build the bank, then drill!

① Word Bank – Letter A A

Word	Synonym	Sentence
Abandon	Forsake, Desert	She had to abandon her old plan.
Abundant	Plentiful, Ample	Water is abundant in this region.
Accept	Admit, Affirm	He was glad to accept the offer.
Adversity	Misfortune, Hardship	She stayed calm in adversity.
Affable	Friendly, Cordial	The host was warm and affable.
Affluent	Rich, Wealthy	They live in an affluent locality.
Aggravate	Worsen, Intensify	Stress can aggravate the illness.
Ambiguous	Vague, Unclear	His reply was ambiguous.
Amass	Collect, Accumulate	He amassed a huge fortune.
Anxiety	Worry, Distress	Exams cause great anxiety.
Arrogant	Haughty, Conceited	His arrogant tone annoyed all.
Astonish	Amaze, Surprise	The trick astonished the crowd.



Tip → Don't just memorise – read the **example sentence**. Meaning sticks when you see the word in use.

② Word Bank – Letters B & C B

Word	Synonym	Sentence
Barren	Infertile, Fruitless	The land was barren and dry.
Bashful	Shy, Coy	The bashful boy avoided the stage.
Benevolent	Kind, Generous	A benevolent donor built the school.
Brave	Valiant, Fearless	The brave soldier led the charge.
Brittle	Fragile, Breakable	Dry twigs are brittle.
Calamity	Disaster, Catastrophe	The flood was a great calamity.
Callous	Cruel, Unfeeling	His callous remark hurt her.
Candid	Frank, Sincere	She gave a candid opinion.
Cautious	Wary, Vigilant	Be cautious while crossing.
Conceal	Hide, Cover	He tried to conceal the truth.
Courageous	Brave, Heroic	A courageous act saved lives.
Credible	Believable, Reliable	Her story sounded credible.

③ Words that mean “brave”

Valiant · Gallant · Intrepid

Dauntless · Fearless · Heroic

✓ Group words by meaning-family. One idea, many words – that’s how the exam tests you!

④ Word Bank – Letters D & E D

Word	Synonym	Sentence
Dainty	Delicate, Elegant	She wore a dainty dress.
Dearth	Scarcity, Shortage	There is a dearth of clean water.
Deride	Mock, Ridicule	Do not deride the weak.
Destiny	Fate, Fortune	Hard work shapes our destiny.
Diligent	Industrious, Hardworking	A diligent student always revises.
Dismay	Disappoint, Depress	The news filled her with dismay.
Eager	Keen, Willing	He was eager to learn.
Eminent	Famous, Distinguished	An eminent scientist spoke.
Enormous	Huge, Immense	The blue whale is enormous.
Erase	Delete, Efface	Erase the wrong answer neatly.
Exaggerate	Amplify, Overstate	Do not exaggerate the danger.
Exonerate	Absolve, Acquit	The court exonerated the accused.

Root tip → **ex-** = out · **e-/ef-** = out/away · so **exonerate** = free of a burden.



Big-size gang → **Enormous** = **Huge** = **Immense** = **Gigantic** = **Colossal** = **Vast**. All mean "very large"!

⑤ Word Bank – Letters F to H F

Word	Synonym	Sentence
Fatal	Deadly, Lethal	The wound proved fatal.
Feeble	Weak, Frail	The patient felt feeble.
Flourish	Thrive, Prosper	The business began to flourish.
Frugal	Thrifty, Economical	She leads a frugal life.
Genuine	Authentic, Real	This is a genuine painting.
Glorious	Splendid, Brilliant	It was a glorious victory.
Gloomy	Dismal, Sad	The weather was gloomy.
Grumble	Complain, Mutter	Stop grumbling about the work.
Haughty	Arrogant, Proud	Her haughty manner offended all.
Hazardous	Dangerous, Risky	Mining is hazardous work.
Hollow	Empty, Vacant	The old tree trunk was hollow.
Harbinger	Herald, Forerunner	The cuckoo is a harbinger of spring.

One meaning, many masks – “weak”

Feeble · Frail · Fragile

Effete · Enervated · Delicate



In the exam, pick the option **closest** in meaning – even if it isn't the word you'd use yourself.

⑥ Word Bank – Letters I to P I

Word	Synonym	Sentence
Immense	Huge, Vast	He has immense talent.
Indolent	Lazy, Idle	An indolent worker delays tasks.
Jubilant	Overjoyed, Ecstatic	Fans were jubilant after the win.
Judicious	Sensible, Prudent	A judicious choice saved money.
Lethal	Deadly, Fatal	The gas was lethal.
Lenient	Mild, Gentle	The teacher was lenient.
Meagre	Scanty, Inadequate	He earns a meagre salary.
Melancholy	Sad, Sorrowful	A melancholy song played softly.
Modest	Humble, Unassuming	She is modest about her success.
Opulent	Rich, Lavish	They hosted an opulent feast.
Perennial	Everlasting, Permanent	A perennial river never dries up.
Persuade	Convince, Induce	He persuaded them to agree.

Root tip → in- here = "not": indolent = not working · inadequate = not enough.



"Rich" gang → Opulent = Affluent = Wealthy = Prosperous. Spot the twin, seal the mark!

⑦ Word Bank – Letters Q to Z T

Word	Synonym	Sentence
Quell	Suppress, Subdue	Police quelled the riot.
Rectify	Correct, Amend	Rectify the mistake at once.
Robust	Strong, Sturdy	He has a robust body.
Sordid	Filthy, Dirty	They lived in sordid conditions.
Solemn	Serious, Sober	A solemn oath was taken.
Triumph	Victory, Conquest	The team enjoyed a great triumph.
Timid	Shy, Fearful	The timid child hid away.
Tolerate	Bear, Endure	I cannot tolerate rudeness.
Vanish	Disappear, Evaporate	The ship vanished in the fog.
Vigilant	Alert, Watchful	Guards must stay vigilant.
Wretched	Miserable, Unlucky	He lived a wretched life.
Zeal	Enthusiasm, Passion	She works with great zeal.

“Peak / top” synonyms – a favourite!

Zenith · **Climax** · **Summit**

Apogee · **Pinnacle** · **Acme**

✓ Beware shades of meaning → **Vigilant** (watchful) is not the same as **Timid** (fearful)!

Exercise A – Choose the correct Synonym

1. **OBNOXIOUS** (a) Depressing (b) Disgusting (c) Arrogant (d) Filthy
2. **DEFERENCE** (a) Indifference (b) Sympathy (c) Respect (d) Flattery
3. **INTREPID** (a) Ambitious (b) Determined (c) Talkative (d) Fearless
4. **SATIATE** (a) Satisfy (b) Dissatisfy (c) Nullify (d) Deny
5. **COLOSSAL** (a) Famous (b) Vigorous (c) Energetic (d) Enormous
6. **MUNIFICENT** (a) Gentle (b) Generous (c) Grand (d) Greedy
7. **MOMENTOUS** (a) Timely (b) Important (c) Hopeless (d) Brief
8. **CLEMENCY** (a) Anger (b) Cruelty (c) Mercy (d) Justice

Answer Key – A

1 → (b) Disgusting 2 → (c) Respect 3 → (d) Fearless 4 → (a) Satisfy 5 → (d) Enormous
6 → (b) Generous 7 → (b) Important 8 → (c) Mercy

Exercise B – Choose the correct Synonym

1. **DILIGENT** (a) Industrious (b) Indifferent (c) Careless (d) Idle
2. **ADULATION** (a) Duration (b) Argument (c) Flattery (d) Institution
3. **GRANDEUR** (a) Magnificence (b) Admiration (c) Happiness (d) Awe
4. **INCEPTION** (a) Initiative (b) Beginning (c) Middle (d) End
5. **CENSURE** (a) Praise (b) Criticise (c) Reward (d) Assure
6. **ACUMEN** (a) Insight (b) Weakness (c) Ignorance (d) Doubt
7. **VANQUISH** (a) Surrender (b) Defeat (c) Retreat (d) Assist
8. **ZEALOUS** (a) Lazy (b) Ardent (c) Calm (d) Weak

Answer Key – B

1 → (a) Industrious 2 → (c) Flattery 3 → (a) Magnificence 4 → (b) Beginning 5 →
(b) Criticise 6 → (a) Insight 7 → (b) Defeat 8 → (b) Ardent

High-Frequency PYQ Synonyms

Word	Closest Synonym
Inception	Beginning, Origin, Start
Proliferate	Multiply, Reproduce, Spread
Contemplation	Meditation, Reflection
Debacle	Collapse, Downfall, Ruin
Iniquity	Wickedness, Sin
Quiver	Tremble, Shake, Shiver
Consort	Partner, Companion
Dishevelled	Untidy, Unkempt, Ruffled
Precedence	Priority, Preference
Confiscate	Seize, Impound

Don't confuse the shade!

Benevolent = kind · **Malevolent** = wicked

Frugal = thrifty · **Lavish** = wasteful

Candid = frank · **Cunning** = sly

Eminent = famous · **Imminent** = near



Golden rule → put the option *into the sentence*. The one that fits the sense is your answer!

☆ Same meaning, sharper word – master them! ☆