

**: STRUCTURE :**

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**3.0 OBJECTIVES**

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In this unit we shall,

- Learn and understand various words in English language with its synonyms (words which are similar in meaning) and antonyms (which are opposite in meaning of the given words).
- Enhance communicative competence of learners to learn variety of words in English language.

On completing the unit, you should be able to,

- Learn various words with their synonyms and antonyms.
- Use some synonyms and antonyms in day to day communication.

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**3.1 INTRODUCTION**

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In English language, words are used in more than many shades of meaning. Use of different words in speech enhances student's confidence to speak with fluency. Having a good treasure of words facilitates students to improve not only speaking but writing skills also. Synonyms and Antonyms are often asked in competitive exams and even in employability tests. An erudite speaker has to use different words to express his ideas more effectively and impressively. To meet with the needs of today's industries, it is important to have command on language. Many companies, organizations and institutes conduct written test as a part of selection procedure. The main aim of having written test is to check understanding of the basic concepts of the candidate.

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**3.2 SYNONYM**

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A **synonym** /s?'n?'n?'m/ is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. When words or phrases have the same meaning, they are called synonymous of each other. The term **synonym** comes from a combination of the Ancient Greek *syn*, meaning with, and *onoma*, meaning "name." for example, synonym for the word "capable" is "competent", "able", "potential", having same meaning. In order to learn a new word, synonym of that words helps to learn other words also. Synonyms are crucial parts of every-

day language. They come in all parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and so on. Synonyms are so important that there is a whole reference work dedicated to them which is called a thesaurus—it is a dictionary of synonyms.

Vocabulary is the most crucial part in language learning. The importance of synonyms is beyond measure. Synonyms make language more interesting, more meaningful, and more relevant. One of the main reasons to use synonyms is to be descriptive, creative, and expressive. The learner of language needs to communicate effectively. Imagine what writing, reading, and speaking would be like if there were only one word for everything. It would be boring, and would have no room for creativity.

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### **3.3 ANTONYM**

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Antonym /ˈɑnt?n?m/ is a word that has the exact opposite meaning of another word is its antonym. The word *antonym* has been derived from the Greek word *anti*, meaning “opposite,” and adds it to *-onym*, which comes from the Greek *onoma*, or “name.” So *antonym* literally means “opposite-name.” Some words can be transformed into their *antonyms* simply by adding the prefixes “un,” “in,” or “non,” “dis” as when “likable” is changed into its antonym, “unlikable” and “similar” into “dissimilar”.

Here, let us boost your word power by learning these words.

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### **3.4 SAMPLE WORDS TO PRACTICE(A to Z)**

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<b>Sr. no.</b>	<b>Words</b>	<b>Synonyms</b>	<b>Antonyms</b>
1.	Acumen	Awareness, brilliance	Stupidity, Ignorance
2.	Adhere	Comply, observe	Condemn, disjoin
3.	Abolish	Abrogate, annual	Setup Establish
4.	Abash	Disconcert, rattle	Uphold, Discompose
5.	Abound	Flourish, proliferate	Deficient, Destitute
6.	Bleak	Grim, Austere	Bright, Pleasant
7.	Brittle	Breakable, crisp	Tough, Enduring
8.	Bustle	Commotion, Tumult	Slowness, Quiet
9.	Barbarous	Frustrate, perplex	Civilized
10.	Baroque	Florid, gilt	Plain, unadorned
11.	Barren	Desolate, Sterile	Damp, Fertile
12.	Calamity	adversity, misfortune	Fortune
13.	Callous	obdurate, unfeeling	Compassionate, Tender
14.	Calumny	defamation, aspersion	Commendation, Praise
15.	Capable	competent, able	Incompetent, Inept
16.	Captivate	Charm, fascinate	Disillusion offend
17.	Captivity	imprisonment, confinement	Freedom, Liberty
18.	Cease	terminate, desist	Begin, Originate
19.	Chaste	virtuous, pure	Sullied, Lustful
20.	Chastise	punish, admonish	Cheer, encourage

**Compulsory  
English**

21.	Compassion	kindness, sympathy	Cruelty, Barbarity
22.	Comprise	include, contain	Reject, lack
23.	Concede	yield, permit	Deny, reject
24.	Concur	approve, agree	Differ, disagree
25.	Consent	agree, permit	Object Disagree
26.	Consequence	effect, outcome	Origin, Start
27.	Consolidate	solidify, strengthen	Separate, Weaken
28.	Conspicuous	prominent, obvious	Concealed, hidden
29.	Decay	Collapse, decompose	Flourish, Progress
30.	Deceit	deception, artifice	Veracity, Sincerity
31.	Decipher	interpret, reveal	Misinterpret, distort
32.	Defile	contaminate, pollute	Purify, sanctity
33.	Defray	spend, pay	Disclaim, Repudiate
34.	Deliberate	cautious, intentional	Rash, Sudden
35.	Demolish	Ruin, devastate	Repair, construct
36.	Docile	Pliable, pliant	Headstrong, obstinate
37.	Dwarf	Diminutive, Petite	Huge, Giant
38.	Ecstasy	delight, exultation	Despair, Calamity
39.	Efface	destroy, obliterate	Retain, Maintain
40.	Eloquence	expression, fluency	Halting, Stammering
41.	Encumbrance	hindrance, obstacle	Incentive, stimulant
42.	Endeavour	undertake, aspire	Cease, quit
43.	Enormous	colossal, mammoth	Diminutive, negligible
44.	Epitome	precise, example	Increment, expansion
45.	Equivocal	uncertain, hazy	Obvious, lucid
46.	Eradicate	destroy, exterminate	Secure, plant
47.	Fabricate	construct, produce	Destroy, Dismantle
48.	Fallacy	delusion, mistake	Veracity, Truth
49.	Falter	stumble, demur	Persist, Endure
50.	Fanatical	narrow-minded, biased	Liberal, Tolerant
51.	Feeble	weak, frail	Strong, Robust
52.	Ferocious	cruel, fierce	Gentle, Sympathetic
53.	Feud	strife, quarrel	Harmony, fraternity
54.	Fluctuate	deflect, vacillate	Stabilize, resolve
55.	Gloom	obscurity, darkness	Delight, mirth
56.	Glut	stuff, satiate	Starve, abstain
57.	Gorgeous	magnificent, dazzling	Dull, unpretentious
58.	Gracious	courteous, beneficent	Rude, Unforgiving
59.	Grisly	disgusting, atrocious	Pleasing attractive
60.	Grudge	hatred, aversion	Benevolence, Affection

61.	Guile	cunning, deceit	Honesty, frankness
62.	Generosity	Altruism, bounty	Stinginess, greed
63.	Genuine	Absolute, Factual	Spurious
64.	Hazard	Peril, danger	Conviction, security
65.	Heretic	non-conformist, secularist	Conformable, religious
66.	Hideous	frightful, shocking	Attractive, alluring
67.	Impenitent	Uncontrite, Obdurate	Repentant
68.	Impulsive	Flaky, Impetuous	Cautious, Deliberate
69.	Indifferent	Equitable, Haughty	Partial, Biased
70.	Indigent	Destitute, Impoverished	Rich, Affluent
71.	Infernal	Damned, Accursed	Heavenly,
72.	Inspid	Tedious, Prosaic	Pleasing, appetizing
73.	Interesting	Enchanting, Riveting	Dull, Uninteresting
74.	Immaculate	unsullied, spotless	Defiled, Tarnished
75.	Immense	huge, enormous	Puny, Insignificant
76.	Jubilant	rejoicing, triumphant	Melancholy, depressing
77.	Judicious	thoughtful, prudent	Irrational, foolish
78.	Just	honest, impartial	Unequal, unfair
79.	Justify	defend, exculpate	Impute, arraign
80.	Juvenile	young, tender	Dotage, antiquated
81.	Keen	sharp, poignant	Vapid, insipid
82.	Kindred	relation, species	Unrelated, dissimilar
83.	Knave	dishonest, scoundrel	Paragon, innocent
84.	Knell	death knell, last blow	Reconstruction, rediscovery
85.	Linger	loiter, prolong	Hasten, quicken
86.	Lucid	sound, rational	Obscure, hidden
87.	Lunacy	delusion, insanity	Normalcy, sanity
88.	Lure	attract, entice	Repel, dissuade
89.	Luscious	palatable, delicious	Unsavoury, tart
90.	Luxuriant	profuse, abundant	Scanty, meagre
91.	Languid	Sluggish, apathetic	Energetic, spirited
92.	Malice	Vengefulness, grudge	Goodwill, Kindness
93.	Mandatory	Imperative, requisite	Optional
94.	Masculine	Gallant, strapping	Feminine, meek
95.	Merit	Stature, Asset	Demerit, dishonor
96.	Miraculous	marvellous, extraordinary	Ordinary, trivial
97.	Mitigate	alleviate, relieve	Augment enhance
98.	Niggardly	miser, covetous	Generous, profuse
99.	Nimble	prompt, brisk	Sluggish, languid
100.	Nonchalant	indifferent, negligent	Attentive, considerate

**Compulsory  
English**

101.	Novice	tyro, beginner	Veteran, ingenious
102.	Noxious	baneful, injurious	Healing, profitable
103.	Obscure	Arcane, Vague	Prominent
104.	Obstinate	Stubborn, Adamant	Pliable, flexible
105.	Obtain	Access, Inherit	Forfeit
106.	Persuade	Cajole, Impress	Dissuade, halt
107.	Perturbed	Flustered, anxious	Calm
108.	Propagate	Inseminate, fecundate	Suppress, deplete
109.	Progress	Pace, Betterment	Retrogress, worsening
110.	Prompt	Precise, Punctual	Slow, Negligent
111.	Quarantine	seclude, screen	Befriend, socialize
112.	Quell	subdue, reduce	Exacerbate, agitate
113.	Quibble	equivocate, prevaricate	Unfeign, plain
114.	Raid	Incursion, Foray	Retreat, release
115.	Rapidity	Quickness, Velocity	Inertia, languidity
116.	Reason	Acumen, Bounds	Folly, Speculation
117.	Rebellious	Restless, attacking	Submissive, Compliant
118.	Rectify	Amend, Remedy	Falsify, Worsen
119.	Reluctant	Cautious, Averse	anxious, Eager
120.	Sacred	Cherish, Divine	Ungodly, Profane
121.	Savage	Wild, untamed	Polished, Civilized
122.	Startled	Frightened, Shocked	Waveringly
123.	Tenement	Apartment, Digs	Breakeven, dislodge
124.	Tenacious	Stubborn, Dodge	Docile, non- resinous
125.	Throng	Assembly, crowd	Dispersion, sparsity
126.	Timid	Diffident, coward	Bold, intrepid
127.	Tranquil	Peaceful, composed	Violent, furious
128.	Utterly	Completely, entirely	Deficiently, incomplete
129.	Umbrage	Chagrin, offense	Sympathy, goodwill
130.	Uncouth	Boorish, Clownish	Elegant, Compensate
131.	Urchin	Foundling, Orphan	Creep, Knave
132.	Urge	Incite, Implore	Abhorrence, Abomination
133.	Vain	Arrogant, egoistic	Modest
134.	Vagrant	Wander, roaming	Steady, settled
135.	Valor	Bravery, prowess	Fear, cowardice
136.	Vanity	Conceit, pretension	Modesty, Humility
137.	Venerable	Esteemed, honored	Unworthy, immature
138.	Waive	Relinquish, remove	Impose, Clamp
139.	Wan	Pale, faded	Bright, healthy
140.	Wane	Decline, Dwindle	Ameliorate, Rise

141.	Wary	cautious, circumspect	Heedless, negligent
142.	Wed	marry, combine	Divorce, Separate
143.	Wicked	vicious, immoral	Virtuous, Noble
144.	Waive	Relinquish, remove	Impose, Clamp
145.	Yell	shout, shriek	Whisper muted
146.	Yield	surrender abdicate	Resist, protest
147.	Yearn	languish, crave	Content, satisfy
148.	Yoke	connect, harness	Liberate, Release
149.	Zenith	summit, apex	Nadir, base
150.	Zest	delight, enthusiasm	Disgust, passive

### 3.5 EXERCISE

#### CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 1

IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, CHOOSE THE ALTERNATIVE WHICH CAN REPLACE THE UNDERLINED WORD WITHOUT CHANGING THE MEANING OF THE SENTENCE.

- 1) Now the fury of the demonstrators turned against the machines.
  - (a) Rage
  - (b) Acrimony
  - (c) Asperity
  - (d) Passion
- 2) It is a scandal that the murderer was declared innocent.
  - (a) Talk
  - (b) disgraceful action
  - (c) rumour
  - (d) silly notion
  - (e) None of these
- 3) Malice is a feeling that we should always avoid.
  - (a) Spite
  - (b) hatred
  - (c) envy
  - (d) cruelty
- 4) The prisoner has been languishing in the jail for the last many years.
  - (a) Suffering
  - (b) convicted
  - (c) enjoying
  - (d) avoiding
  - (e) None of these
- 5) Whatever the verdict of history may be, Chaplin will occupy a unique place in its pages.
  - (a) Judgement
  - (b) Voice
  - (c) Prediction
  - (d) Outcome
  - (e) None of these
- 6) "I have learnt a great deal working in factories, and for some time I've been a weaver. Here are my testimonials, Mr. Davis."
  - (a) Testaments
  - (b) trophies
  - (c) witnesses
  - (d) credentials
  - (e) tokens

**Compulsory  
English**

- 7) Whatever opinion Anil gives is sane.  
(a) Obscure (b) rational  
(c) arrogant (d) wild  
(e) none of these
- 8) The article is written in a very lucid style.  
(a) Elaborate (b) clear  
(c) intricate (d) noble
- 9) His inflexible attitude is the root cause of most of his problems.  
(a) Negative (b) nasty  
(c) hesitant (d) rigid  
(e) annoying
- 10) If you familiarize yourself with the culture of that area, you will be able to enjoy life there.  
(a) Submit (b) acquaint  
(c) associate (d) look after  
(e) instil into

**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 2**

**CHOOSE ONE ALTERNATIVE WHICH IS OPPOSITE IN MEANING TO THE GIVEN WORD.**

- 1) Having delivered his maiden speech in the parliament, he never looked back in his political career.  
(a) last (b) first  
(c) important (d) rhetoric
- 2) She always casts a  cursory look at the participants before addressing them.  
(a) hurried (b) concerned  
(c) saved (d) supported
- 3) His was a sulky disposition.  
(a) loving (b) kind  
(c) mild (d) cheerful
- 4) The error in the newspaper article is accidental.  
(a) conventional (b) intentional  
(c) permissible (d) usual
- 5) The habit of squandering money should not be encouraged.  
(a) hoarding (b) discarding  
(c) saving (d) collecting
- 6) Unlike in Bihar board, English is an optional subject in the U.P.Board.  
(a) voluntary (b) necessary  
(c) elementary (d) compulsory

- 7) Her husband's death is an irreparable loss to her entire family.  
 (a) Great (b) insignificant  
 (c) unimaginable (d) unbearable
- 8) Vanity & beauty often go together.  
 (a) Pride (b) humility  
 (c) conceit (d) kindness
- 9) She doesn't like wearing gaudy clothes, she likes light colors only.  
 (a) Dark colored (b) sober  
 (c) fashionable (d) ornate
- 10) The two brothers look alike. Even their views on most of the subjects are identical.  
 (a) Same (b) alike  
 (c) dissimilar (d) different

**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 3**

**MATCH THE FOLLOWING WORDS USING APPROPRIATE WORD.**

A

1. Vagrant
2. Malignant
3. Loquacious
4. Accord
5. Vulnerable
6. Accept
7. Benevolent

B

- A Endangered
- B Agreement
- C Spiteful
- D Receive
- E Kind-hearted
- F Talkative
- G Wander

**CHECK YOUR PROGRESS 4**

**CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD FROM THE GIVEN OPTIONS.**

1. **Vicissitude**
  - a. sorrows
  - b. misfortunes
  - c. changes
  - d. surprises

**Compulsory  
English**

2. **Pandemonium**
  - a. great joy
  - b. utter confusion
  - c. loud noise
  - d. big crowd
3. **Garrulity**
  - a. credulity
  - b. speciousness
  - c. Loquaciousness
  - d. speciousness
4. **Magniloquent**
  - a. Amusing
  - b. Humorous
  - c. Intelligent
  - d. Boastful
5. **Yokel**
  - a. Intrigue
  - b. Simple-minded
  - c. Victorious
  - d. Noise
7. **Aesthetic**
  - a. Mediocre
  - b. Prevalent
  - c. Ugly
  - d. Beautiful
6. **Abeyance**
  - a. Suspension
  - b. Persistence
  - c. Continuation
  - d. Rigid
8. **Imbecile**
  - a. Sane
  - b. Astute
  - c. Foolish
  - d. Aid
9. **Epitome**
  - a. Precise
  - b. Summary

- c. Spurn
- d. Exemplar

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### 3.6 LET US SUM UP

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In this unit, you have learnt,

- To differentiate between synonyms and antonyms.
- To understand various words with its usage in English language.
- To use synonyms and antonyms in lay man's language.

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### 3.7 BOOKS SUGGESTED

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#### Books

1. Word Power Made Easy by Norman Lewis
2. English Vocabulary in Use by Cambridge University
3. 3000 Synonyms and Antonyms (English Improvement for Success) by Sam Phillips
4. Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms – for all competitive exams by B.B. Sinha

#### Dictionaries for reference

1. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English by A.S. Hornby 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (revised and updated)
2. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

#### ANSWERS

##### Check your progress 1

1. (a) Rage
2. (c) rumour
3. (a) Spite
4. (a) suffering
5. (a) judgement
6. (d) credentials
7. (b) rational
8. (b) clear
9. (d) rigid
10. (b) acquaint

##### Check your progress 2

1. (a) last
2. (b) concerned
3. (d) cheerful
4. (b) intentional
5. (c) saving
6. (d) compulsory
7. (b) insignificant
8. (b) humility
9. (b) sober
10. (d) different

##### Check your progress 3

1. – G, 2 – C, 3 – F, 4 – B, 5 – A, 6 – D, 7 – E

##### Check your progress 4

1. (C) changes

#### Explanation:

**Meaning:** A change of circumstances, typically one that is unwelcome or unpleasant.

**Compulsory  
English**

**Synonyms:** Alteration, Change, Transition

**Antonyms:** Stagnation, Uniformity, Stability

2. (b) **utter confusion**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** It is a state of noisy, confused activity.

**Synonyms:** Alarums, Blather, Clatter

**Antonyms:** Calm, Hush, Quiet

3. (C) **Loquaciousness**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** The use of too many words to express an idea.

**Synonyms:** Circumlocution, Diffuseness, Verbiage

**Antonyms:** Brevity, Briefness, Terseness

4. (d) **Boastful**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** Magniloquent is using high-flown or bombastic language.

**Synonyms:** Grandiloquent, High-sounding, Lofty

**Antonyms:** Terse, Crisp

5. (b) **Simple-minded**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** Yokel is an uneducated or simple-minded person from countryside.

**Synonyms:** Bumpkin, Rustic, Hillbilly

**Antonyms:** Cosmopolitan, Sophisticate

6. (a) **Suspension**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** *Abeyance* is a temporary stop to something or a pause.

**Example:** Due to budget cuts, employer contributions to retirement accounts are being put in abeyance.

**Synonyms:** Discontinuation, Dormancy, Inactivity, intermission

**Antonyms:** Continuation, Action, Activity, Operation

7. (d) **Beautiful**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** *Aesthetic* means the pleasant, positive or artful appearance of a person or a thing.

**Example:** You should now focus on the aesthetic factors of your art collection.

**Synonyms:** Artistic, Creative, Artful, Gorgeous

**Antonyms:** Displeasing, Ugly, Unattractive

8. **(C) Foolish**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** An *imbecile* is foolish or isn't very smart.

**Example:** He convinced the police officer not to arrest the drunken imbecile.

**Synonyms:** Simple, Stupid, Thick, Dull

**Antonyms:** Intelligent, Smart, Brainy

9. **(d) Exemplar**

**Explanation:**

**Meaning:** *Epitome* is defined as a person or object that is defined as a perfect example of something.

**Example:** The hotel is epitome of grandeur and elegance.

**Synonyms:** Perfect Example, Exemplar, Embodiment, Apotheosis

**Antonyms:** Addition, Enlargement, Expansion, Extension