

Antonyms

Antonyms are words that mean the opposite or nearly the opposite of each other for one meaning. Both synonyms and antonyms are often used in tests and language drills.

Below is a list of common antonyms. Please refer to district adopted materials for words specific to each grade level.

above – below
absent – present
accident – intent
accomplishment – failure
achieve – fail
add – subtract
adjacent – distant
admire – detest
admit – reject
adore – hate
advance – retreat
affirm – deny
afraid – confident
after – before
aid – hinder
alarm – comfort
alert – asleep
alive – dead
allow – forbid
alone – together
amateur – professional
amuse – bore
ancient – modern
annoy – soothe
answer – question
apparent – obscure
argue – agree
arrive – depart
arrogant – humble
ascend – descend
attack – defend
attract – repel
awake – asleep
awkward – graceful

back – front
bad – good
bare – covered

beautiful – ugly
before – after
bent – straight
better – worse
big – little
birth – death
bitter – sweet
black – white
blunt – sharp
body – soul
bold – timid
bottom – top
brave – cowardly
break – repair
brief – long
bright – dull
bring – remove
boy – girl
busy – idle
buy – sell

capture – release
cause – effect
cautious – careless
center – edge
change – remain
cheap – expensive
child – adult
chilly – warm
clean – dirty
close – open
cold – hot
command – obey
complex – simple
compliment – insult
constant – variable
continue – interrupt
cool – warm

copy – original
countrymen – foreigner
crazy – sane
crooked – straight
cruel – kind
cry – laugh
curse – bless

damage – improve
dark – light
dawn – sunset
day – night
deep – shallow
destroy – create
difficult – easy
dim – bright
divide – unite
doubt – trust
drunk – sober
dull – sharp
dumb – smart

earth – sky
east – west
easy – hard
elementary – advanced
end – begin
even – odd
evening – morning
evil – good
exceptional – common
expand – shrink

fail – pass
failure – success
false – true
famous – unknown
fancy – plain



fast – slow
fat – thin
fiction – fact
find – lose
finish – start
firm – flabby
fix – break
follow – lead
forgive – blame
forward – backward
free – restricted
fresh – stale
friend – enemy
funny – sad
full – empty

gain – lose
generous – stingy
gentle – harsh
get – give
give – receive
glad – sad
gloomy – cheerful
glossy – dull
go – come
gorgeous – ugly
great – small
greed – generous
grief – joy
ground – sky
guard – attack
guess – know

handsome – ugly
happy – sad
hard – soft
hate – love
he – she
head – foot
heal – infect
healthy – sick
heaven – hell
heavy – light
height – depth
help – hinder

hero – coward
high – low
hill – valley
him – her
hire – fire
his – hers
hot – cold
horrible – pleasant
huge – tiny
hurry – slow
hurt – help

idle – active
in – out
individual – group
innocent – guilty
inside – outside
intelligent – stupid

jolly – serious
joy – sadness

keep – lose
kind – cruel
knowledge – ignorance

large – small
last – first
laugh – cry
leading – following
leave – arrive
left – right
less – more
let – prevent
level – uneven
lie – truth
life – death
like – dislike
likely – unlikely
liquid – solid
little – big
lively – inactive
lonely – crowded
long – short
loose – tight

lost – found
loud – soft
love – hate

maintain – discontinue
major – minor
make – destroy
male – female
man – woman
many – few
marvelous – terrible
mature – immature
melt – freeze
mess – tidiness
miscellaneous – specific
mistake – accuracy
mix – separate
moist – dry
more – less
most – least
mother – father
move – stay

naive – sophisticated
nasty – nice
near – far
never – always
new – old
no – yes
nobody – everybody
noise – quiet
none – all
north – south
nothing – something
now – then

obese – thin
obvious – hidden
odd – even
offend – please
offer – refuse
often – seldom
old – young
on – off
one – several



ordinary – uncommon
other – same
over – under

pacify – agitate
pain – pleasure
panic – calm
part – whole
partial – complete
particular – general
pass – fail
passive – active
peace – disturbance
perceive – ignore
permanent – unstable
permit – refuse
pessimistic – optimistic
physical – spiritual
place – misplace
plain – fancy
play – work
plentiful – sparse
plump – thin
polish – dull
polite – rude
pollute – purify
poor – rich
positive – negative
powerful – weak
praise – criticism
preceding – following
present – absent
pretty – ugly
prevent – encourage
pride – modesty
private – public
problem – solution
profit – loss
prohibit – allow
pupil – teacher
push – pull

quality – inferiority
quick – slow
quiet – noisy

quit – start

raise – lower
random – specific
rapid – slow
rare – common
raw – cooked
ready – unprepared
rear – front
reduce – increase
regret – rejoice
relax – tighten
remember – forget
repair – destroy
retain – lose
revenge – forgiveness
ridiculous – sensible
right – wrong
rigid – flexible
rise – sink
rough – smooth
rude – polite

sad – happy
same – different
satisfy – displease
secluded – public
segregate – integrate
seldom – often
sell – buy
send – receive
sensational – dull
servant – master
shack – palace
shade – light
shame – honor
sharp – dull
she – he
short – long
show – hide
shy – trusting
sick – healthy
silence – sound
single – married
single – plural

sit – stand
slave – master
slender – fat
slow – fast
small – large
soak – dry
sober – drunk
some – none
something – nothing
sorrow – gladness
sour – sweet
speechless – talkative
spend – earn
stale – fresh
start – stop
started – finished
stay – leave
steal – provide
sterile – fertile
stiff – flexible
still – moving
stingy – generous
stop – go
stranger – friend
strength – weakness
student – teacher
sturdy – weak
sunrise – sunset
superb – inferior
supple – rigid
survive – die
suspect – trust

take – give
tall – short
tame – wild
teach – learn
temporary – permanent
thaw – freeze
there – here
thin – thick
thorough – incomplete
thrifty – wasteful
tidy – messy
tie – loosen



timid – bold
to – from
together – apart
told – asked
top – bottom
toward – away
tragic – comic
transform – retain
transparent - opaque
triumph – defeat
true – false
truth – lie

ultimate – primary
union – separation
unique – common
up – down
upset – stabilize
urge – deter

vacant – full
vague – definite
vanish – appear
vast – limited
vertical – horizontal
villain – hero
visitor – host/hostess

waive – require
wake – sleep
wealth – poverty
weep – laugh
well – badly
wet – dry
white – black
wild – tame
win – lose
with – without
worship – detest
worth – uselessness
wreck - create