

# Synonyms

## Synonym

Synonyms are different words with identical or at least similar meanings. Words that are synonyms are said to be synonymous, and the state of being a synonym is called synonymy. An example of synonyms are the words car and automobile

Synonyms can be any part of speech, as long as both members of the pair are the same part of speech. More examples of English synonyms are:

### Noun

"student" and "pupil"

"petty crime" and "misdemeanor"

### Verb

"buy" and "purchase"

### Adjective

"sick" and "ill"

### Adverb

"quickly" and "speedily"

### Preposition

"on" and "upon"

Note that synonyms are defined with respect to certain senses of words; for instance, pupil as the "aperture in the iris of the eye" is not synonymous with student. Similarly, he expired means the same as he died, yet my passport has expired cannot be replaced by my passport has died.

In English, many synonyms evolved from the parallel use, in the early medieval period, of Norman French (from Latin) and Old English (Anglo-Saxon) words, often with some words being used principally by the Saxon peasantry ("folk", "freedom", "bowman") and their synonyms by the Norman nobility ("people", "liberty", "archer").

Synonyms are words that mean about the same thing. Synonyms add interest and life to reading and writing. Examples of synonyms are hot and torrid; ugly and hideous; cry and weep. Completing these exercises will give you a broader vocabulary to choose from, especially when writing.

1. a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word, such as bucket and pail

2. a word or phrase used as another name for something, such as Hellene for a Greek

3. biology a taxonomic name that has been superseded or rejected

**Example:**

Corpulent:Obese

Brief:Short

Embezzle:Clear

**Exercise Questions**

**1. Luxuriant**

- a. Beautiful
- b. Luxurious
- c. Abundant
- d. lovely

**2. Memorable**

- a. Memorial
- b. worth remembering
- c. mending
- d. striking

**3. Officious**

- a. concerning office
- b. legal
- c. interfering
- d. permissible

**4. Opulous**

- a. Popular
- b. Respectful
- c. Populated(thickly)
- d. hard working

**5. Vocation**

- a. Holiday
- b. Occupation
- c. break-up
- d. virtue

**6. Illegible**

- a. Fit
- b. Illegal
- c. not readable
- d. elective

**7. Illicit**

- a. Illegal
- b. Draw
- c. Differ
- d. postpone

**8. Defer**

- a. Differ
- b. Respect
- c. Postpone
- d. disagree

**9. Proscribe**

- a. Fix
- b. Order
- c. prohibit sale and publication
- d. continue the use of

## 10. Imperious

- a. Proud
- b. Temper
- c. Tamper
- d. distant

### Answer Key:

1.c; 2.b; 3.c; 4.c; 5.b; 6.c; 7.a; 8.c; 9.c; 10.a

## Common Synonyms

1. Abase: lower , degrade , humiliate
2. Abate: subside , moderate
3. Aberrant: abnormal , deviant
4. Abeyance : suspended action , not in continuation
5. Abet : Assist, usually doing something in wrong
6. Abbreviate : shorten
7. Abolish: cancel, put an end to
8. Ablution : Washing
9. Abominate: loathe , hate
10. Adjure: renounce upon oath
11. Abnegation: renunciation , self sacrifice
12. Abscission: cutting off, separation

13. Abridge : condense , shorten
14. Abscond: depart secretly, and hide
15. Absolute: complete, certain
16. Absolve : pardon
17. Abstinence : restraint from eating or drinking
18. Abusive: coarsely insulting
19. Abut: border upon
20. Abortive: unsuccessful, fruitless
21. Bard: Poet
22. Barefaced: Shameless, bold
23. Bask: luxuriate, take pleasure in warmth.
24. Bate: let down, restrain.
25. Beatific: giving bliss, blissful.
26. Beeline: Direct, Quick route.
27. Behoove: Be suited to.
28. Belie: Contradict, give a false impression.
29. Bestow: Confer.
30. Bilk: Swindle, Cheat.
31. Bland: Soothing or mild, agreeable.
32. Blanch: Bleach, whiten.
33. Bicker: Quarrel.
34. Blurt: utter impulsively.
35. Boon: blessing, benefit.

36. Brawn: Muscular strength, sturdiness.
37. Brook: tolerate; endure.
38. Brittle: easily broken, difficult.
39. Broach: Introduce, open up.
40. Brazen: Insolent.
41. Brandish: Wave around, Flourish.
42. Brunt: Main impact or shock.
43. Brackish: Somewhat saline.
44. Bizarre: Fantastic
45. Bivouac: Temporary encampment.
46. Bait: harass, tease.
47. Babble: Chatter idly.
48. Balk: Stop short, as if faced with an obstacle and refuse to continue.
49. Banal: hackneyed, commonplace, trite, lacking originality.
50. Beneficent: Kindly, doing good.
51. Cacophonous: Discordant, Inharmonious
52. Capricious: Unpredictable, steadfast
53. Castigation: Punishment, severe criticism, commendation
54. Catalyst: Agent that brings about chemical change while it remains unaffected and unchanged
55. Cache: Hiding place
56. Callow: Immature, inexperienced, Youthful
57. Chaste: Pure, modest. Outspoken

58. Coagulate: Thicken, clot
59. Coda: Concluding section of a musical composition
60. Connoisseur: Person competent to act as judge of art, A lover of an art.
61. Dabble: Work at in a non-serious fashion, splash around
62. Dally: Trifle with.
63. Dank: Damp
64. Dappled: Neat and trim
65. Daub: Smear
66. Daunt: frighten
67. Debris: rubble
68. Dawdle: loiter, waste time
69. Dearth: scarcity
70. Decant: pour of gently
71. Decapitate: behead
72. Decipher: Decode
73. Declivity: Downward slope
74. Deface: Mar, Disfigure.
75. Decoy: Lure or bait
76. Defile: Pollute, profane
77. Descry: catch sight of
78. Derogatory: expressing a low opinion
79. Dirge: lament with music
80. Diadem: Crown

81. Encumber: Burden
82. Endearment: Fond word or act
83. Endure: Provide with some Quality, endow.
84. Enduring: lasting, surviving.
85. Eminent: Lofty, Conspicuous, celebrated, remarkable.
86. Enervate: Weaken
87. Engross: Occupy fully
88. Enigma: Puzzle, Mystery
89. Ennui: Boredom
90. Enormity: Huge
91. Enrapture: Please intensely
92. Ensnare: Trap, ensnare
93. Ensnare: Follow
94. Entail: Require, necessitate; involve
95. Entreat: Plead, ask earnestly.
96. Eon: Long period of time, on age
97. Enthrall: Capture, enslave
98. Epigram: a witty saying
99. Epilogue: Short speech at conclusion of dramatic work.
100. Erode: Eat away
101. Erotic: Pertaining to passionate love.
102. Erroneous: Mistaken, wrong
103. Eschew: Avoid



104. Escapade: Prank, Flighty conduct.
105. Espouse: adopt, support.
106. Fanciful: whimsical, visionary
107. Fatuous: foolish, inane
108. Falter: hesitate
109. Farce: broad comedy, mockery, nothing went right,
110. Fecundity : fertility, fruitfulness
111. Fell: cruel, deadly
112. Felon : person convicted of a grave crime.
113. Ferret : drive or hunt out of hiding.
114. Fete: honor at a festival
115. Flay : strip off skin, plunder
116. Fleece: rob, plunder
117. Flinch: hesitate, shrink
118. Finesse: delicate, skill
119. Filch: steal
120. Figment: invention, imaginary thing.
121. Fidelity: loyalty
122. Fiat: command
123. Fetter: shackle
124. Fetid : malodorous
125. Flit: fly, dart lightly, and pass swiftly by.
126. Floe: mass of floating ice

127. Flourish: grow well, prosper, make sweeping gestures.
128. Flout: reject, mock
129. Fluster: confuse
130. Foray: raid
131. Gadfly: animal-biting, an irritating person
132. Gattle: social blunder
133. Gainsay: deny
134. Gait: Manner of walking or running, speed
135. Gale: windstorm
136. Gall: bitterness, nerve
137. Gall: annoy, chafe
138. Gambol: skip about
139. Gape: open widely
140. Garner: gather, store up
141. Gauche: clumsy, coarse and uncouth
142. Gaunt: lean and angular
143. Gavel: hammer like tool, mallet
144. Gentry: people of standing, class of people just below Nobility
145. Genuflect: bend the knee as in worship
146. Ghostly: horrible
147. Gibe: mock
148. Giddy: ht-hearted, dizzy
149. Girth: distance around something; circumference

150. Gory: bloody
151. Hale: healthy
152. Hap: chance, luck
153. Haphazard: random, by chance
154. Haggard: wasted away, gaunt
155. Halcyon: calm, peaceful
156. Hallucination: delusion
157. Harbinger: forerunner
158. Hew: cut to pieces with axe or sword
159. Heedless: not noticing, disregarding
160. Heckler: person who verbally harasses others
161. Hazy: slightly obscure
162. Harbor: provide a & refuge for, hide
163. Hibernial: wintry
164. Hurtle: crash, rush
165. Hypercritical: excessively exacting
166. Hypochondriac: person unduly worried about his health, without cause about illness
167. Hover: hang about, wait nearby
168. Humdrum: dull, monotonous
169. Humility: humbleness of spirit
170. Homage: honor, tribute
171. Ichthyology: Study of fish
172. Idolatry: Worship of idols, excessive admiration.

173. Igneous: produced by fire, volcanic, Lava
174. Ignoble: unworthy, not noble.
175. Immobility: State of being immovable.
176. Impair: injure, hurt.
177. Imbecility: weakness of mind.
178. Imbibe: drink in
179. Illusory: deceptive, not real, unfortunately.
180. Impeach: Charge with crime in office
181. Impasse: Predicament from which there is no escape
182. Impending: Nearing, approaching.
183. Implicit: understood but not stated.
184. Impediment: hindrance, stumbling block.
185. Implode: Burst inward
186. Implore: Beg.
187. Implausible: unlikely, unbelievable.
188. Impinge: touch, collide with .
189. Imponderable: weightless.
190. Importunate: demanding.
191. Jabber: Chatter rapidly or unintelligibly.
192. Jaded: Fatigued, surfeited.
193. Jargon: language used by a special group, Technical terminology, gibberish.
194. Jaundiced: Prejudiced, yellowed, envious.
195. Jaunt: Trip, Short journey.

196. Jaunty: Lighthearted, animated, easy, carefree.
197. Jeopardize: endanger, imperil, put at risk.
198. Jettison: throw overboard.
199. Jibe: agree, be in harmony with.
200. Jingoist: extremely aggressive and militant patriot, was like chauvinist.
201. Jocose: given to joking.
202. Jostle: Shove, bump.
203. Jocular: said (or) done in jest.
204. Jocund: merry
205. Jollity: gaiety, cheerfulness.
206. Jovial: good-natured, merry.
207. Jubilation: rejoicing.
208. Judicious: Sound in judgment, wise.
209. Juggernaut: irresistible crushing force.
210. Juncture: Crisis, joining point
211. Ken: range of knowledge
212. Kernel: Central or vital part, whole speed.
213. Kindred: related, similar in nature or character.
214. Kismet: fate
215. Knead: mix, work dough
216. Knell: tolling of a bell, especially to indicate a funeral, disaster, sound of funeral bell.
217. Knit: contract into wrinkles, grow together
218. Knoll: little, round hill

219. Knotty: intricate, difficult, tangled
220. Kudos: honor, glory, praise
221. Knave: Untrustworthy person, rogue, scoundrel
222. Killjoy: grouch, spoilsport
223. Laggard : Slow, Sluggish
224. Laconic : Brief and to the point.
225. Lank : Long and thin
226. Lassitude: Languor, Weariness.
227. Laud : Praise
228. Lavish : Liberal, Wasteful.
229. Leery : Suspicious, cautions
230. Levee : Earthen or stone embankment to prevent flooding.
231. Levity : Lack of seriousness or steadiness;
232. Lewd : Lustful
233. Lexicon : Dictionary
234. Limber : Flexible
235. Limpid : Clear
236. Lionize : Treat as a celebrity.
237. Flexible: Flexible, supple
238. Lofty : Very High.
239. Lank : Long and Thin
240. Lassitude: Languor, Weariness
241. Laud : Praise

242. Lavish : Liberal, Wasteful
243. Leery : Suspicious, Cautions
244. Levee : Earthen or stone embankment to prevent flooding.
245. Macabre: gruesome, grisly
246. Magisterial: Authoritative, impervious
247. Magnitude: Greatness, Extent
248. Malady: illness
249. Malefactor: evildoer, animal
250. Malign: Speak evil of, bad-mouth, defame
251. Manifesto: declaration, Statement of policy.
252. Mandatory: obligatory
253. Malodorous: Foul smelling
254. Manacle: restrain, handcuff.
255. Masochist: person who enjoys his own pain
256. Matriarch: woman who rules a family or larger social group
257. Maritime: bordering on the sea, nautical
258. Marred: damaged, Disfigured
259. Maul: handle roughly
260. Maxim: proverb, a truth pithily stated.
261. Meretricious: flashy, tawdry
262. Mediocre: ordinary, common place
263. Meek: Submissive; patient and long suffering
264. Mete: measure, distribute

265. Migrant: changing its habitat, wondering
266. Mishap: accident
267. Mirage: unreal reflection, optical illusion
268. Mire: Entangle, stick in swampy ground
269. Mirth: merriment, laughter
270. Misadventure: mischance, ill luck
271. Mnemonic: pertaining to memory
272. Misogynist: hater of women
273. Mogul: powerful person
274. Motif: theme
275. Monotheism: belief in one God.
276. Mordant: biting, sarcastic, stinging
277. Mule: a person who transports illegal drugs
278. Narcissist: Conceited person.
279. Natation: Swimming
280. Nauseate: cause to become sick, Fill with disgust.
281. Neophyte: recent, beginner
282. Nostrum: Questionable medicine.
283. Niggle: Spend too much time on minor points , crap
284. Nostalgia: Homesickness, longing for the past.
285. Nexus: connection
286. Nugatory: Futile, worthless
287. Nullify: make invalid



288. Numismatist: person who collects coins.
289. Noxious: harmful
290. Novelty: Something new, newness
291. Nocturnal: Done at night.
292. Nomadic: wandering
293. Obdurate: Stubborn
294. Obeisance: bow
295. Obese: Excessively fat.
296. Obelisk: tall column tapering and ending in a pyramid.
297. Obituary: death notice
298. Obligatory: binding, required.
299. Obliterate: destroy completely.
300. Obloquy: slander, disgrace, infamy
301. Obscure: darken, make unclear
302. Obnoxious: Offensive
303. Obsequy: funeral ceremony
304. Occlude: shut, close
305. Occult: mysterious, secret, supernatural
306. Odoriferous: giving off an odour
307. Odyssey: long, eventful, journey
308. Ominous: threatening
309. Paean: song of praise or joy
310. Paleontology: study of prehistoric life

311. Pall: grow tiresome
312. Panacea: cure-all remedy for all diseases
313. Paragon: model of perfection
314. Parlance: language, idiom
315. Passé: old-fashioned, past the prime
316. Pastoral: rural
317. Patriarch: father and ruler of a family or tribe
318. Pauper: very poor person
319. Pedestrian: ordinary, unimaginative
320. Perennial: something long-lasting
321. Perfidious: treacherous, disloyal
322. Perpetrate: commit an offense
323. Perpetual: ever lasting
324. Pert: impertinent, forward
325. Pillage: plunder
326. Placid: peaceful, calm
327. Portent: sign, omen, forewarning
328. Pragmatist: practical person
329. Quadruped: four-footed animal
330. Quail: cower, lose heart
331. Quaint: odd, old-fashioned
332. Quay: dock, landing place
333. Quack: charlatan, impostor

334. Quarantine: isolation of a person, place, or ship to prevent spread of infection.
335. Quorum: no. of members necessary to conduct a meeting
336. Quietude: tranquility
337. Quintessence: purest and highest embodiment
338. Quiver: case for arrows
339. Quip: taunt
340. Quiver: tremble, shake
341. Rankle: irritate, fester
342. Rancid: having the odor of stale fat
343. Raspy: grating, harsh
344. Ravage: plunder, despoil
345. Ravenous: extremely hungry
346. Realm: kingdom. Field or sphere
347. Renege: deny, go back on
348. Repast: meal, feast, banquet
349. Regal: royal
350. Rig: fix, manipulate
351. Roster: list
352. Reek: emit (odor)
353. Reiterate: repeat
354. Remorse: guilt, self-reproach
355. Regicide: murder of a king or queen
356. Refectory: dining hall

357. Redolent: fragrant, odorous, suggestive of an order
358. Retinue: following, attendants
359. Ruse: trick, strategy
360. Ruffian: bully, scoundrel
361. Sage: person celebrated for wisdom
362. Salubrious: healthful
363. Sap: diminish, Undermine
364. Sate: Satisfy fully
365. Savor: enjoy, have a distinctive Flavour , smell or quality.
366. Sear: char or burn, brand
367. Scad : great quantity
368. Spate: sudden flood
369. Sodden: Soaked, dull, as if from drink
370. Snivel: run at the nose, snuffle, whine.
371. Smirk: conceited smile.
372. Slacken: slow up, loosen
373. Sinewy: tough, set strong and firm
374. Shyster: lawyer using Questionable methods
375. Shard: fragment, generally of pottery
376. Stanch: Check flow of blood.
377. Stint: be thrifty, set limits
378. Stolid: dull, impassive
379. Subside: settled down, descend, grow quiet

380. Sylvan: pertaining to the woods, rustic
381. Sybarite: lover of luxury.
382. Swindles: cheat
383. Tacit: understood, not put into words.
384. Tactile: pertaining to the organs or sense of touch.
385. Talon: claw of bird.
386. Taut: tight, ready
387. Tawdry: cheap and gaudy
388. Tarry: delay, dawdle
389. Tenuous: thin, rare, slim
390. Testy: Irritable, short tempered
391. Toady : servile flatterer , Yes man
392. Tirade: extended scolding
393. Toga: Roman outer robe
394. Tome: large volume
395. Tyro: beginner, novice
396. Tumid: swollen, pompous, bombastic
397. Turgid: Swollen, distended
398. Tremor: Trembling
399. Trek: travel, journey
400. Trenchant: cutting, keen
401. Traduce: Expose to slander
402. Tureen: Deep dish for serving soup

403. Trappings: outward decorations, ornaments.
404. Tryst: meeting
405. Transcribe: copy
406. Trajectory: Path taken by a projectile
407. Tycoon: Wealthy leader
408. Ultimatum: last demand, warning
409. Unearth: dig up
410. Uncanny: stranger, mysterious
411. Unction: the act of anointing with oil
412. Unguent: ointment
413. Unruly: disobedient, lawless
414. Unsavory: distasteful, morally offensive
415. Usury: lending money at illegal rates of interest
416. Unison: unity of pitch, complete accord
417. Urchin: mischievous child
418. Urbane: suave, refined, elegant
419. Unwitting: unintentional, not knowing
420. Unfledged: immature
421. Uninhibited: unrepressed
422. Unravel: disentangle, solve
423. Vulpine: like a fox, crafty
424. Volition: act of making a conscious choice
425. Vixen: female fox, ill-tempered woman

426. Voyeur: peeping tom
427. Vituperative: abusive, scolding
428. Vouge: popular fashion
429. Virile: manly
430. Viscous: sticky, gluey
431. Waft: moved gently by wind or waves
432. Waive: give up temporarily, yield
433. Wallow: roll in, indulge in; become helpless
434. Wan: having a pale or sickly color, pallid.
435. Wary: very cautious
436. Welter: turmoil, bewildering jumble
437. Wane: decrease in size or strength, draw gradually to an end
438. Whiff: puff or gust, hint
439. Whimsical: capricious, fanciful
440. Wince: shrink back, flinch
441. Wry: twisted, with a humorous twist
442. Woe: deep, inconsolable grief, suffering
443. Xenophobia: fear or hatred of foreigners
444. Yen: longing, urge
445. Yeoman: man owning small estate, middle-class farmer.
446. Yoke: join together, unite
447. Yokel: country pumpkin
448. Yore: time past

449. Zany: crazy, comic

450. Zeal: eager enthusiasm

451. Zealot: fanatic

452. Zephyr: Gentle breeze, west wind

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