# SPAG L2 – Synonyms and antonyms

# 1 of 12 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on synonyms and antonyms.

In this session we will cover:

* Definition of synonyms and antonyms
* Working with synonyms
* Working with antonyms

# 2 of 12 – Question 1

We use synonyms and antonyms every day in speaking and writing.

The words ‘synonym’ and ‘antonym’ come from the Greek words:

* Syn – with
* Anti – against
* Nym – name or word

Match the words below to their correct definitions.

Definitions:

1. A word or group of words that can be substituted for others with the same or very similar meaning.
2. A word or group of words which have an opposite meaning.

Words:

* Antonym
* Synonym

Answers:

1. Antonym
2. Synonym

# 3 of 12 – Synonym and antonym examples

Let’s look at an example that has synonyms and antonyms.

* Synonym means “same meaning”
* Antonym means “opposite meaning”

A synonym of the word ‘big’ would be ‘large’.

An antonym of the word ‘big’ would be ‘small’.

# 4 of 12 – Synonyms and antonyms

Synonyms and antonyms are incredibly useful for building our word power and increasing the variety of words we use. They can stop our English from sounding repetitive. Here are two examples:

Without synonyms and antonyms:

‘I took my dog for a walk in the countryside yesterday. The countryside was nice. The dog was in a bad mood, and he kept barking at everybody who walked past us. He kept growling as well. Everybody we saw looked at the dog as if he were crazy. I wanted to shout at the dog, but I I didn’t want to make the dog’s mood even worse. This was a bad walk!’

With synonyms and antonyms:

‘I took my dog for a walk in the countryside yesterday. The greenery was beautiful. My pooch was in a bad mood, and he kept barking at everybody who walked past us. He wouldn’t stop growling either. All the people we encountered looked at this mutt as if he were crazy. I was tempted to shout at him, but I didn’t want to make him even more grumpy. This was not the most enjoyable stroll I’ve ever had!

Notice how many times words are repeated when synonyms or antonyms are not used.

You can see that the second paragraph is more varied and more interesting.

# 5 of 12 – Question 2

What are the synonyms in the following sentences?

1. I was totally smitten by her; I was in love!
2. My grandma has broken her leg. It is fractured in two places.
3. Muhammed Ali was the best, the finest, the greatest sportsman.

Answers:

1. Smitten, in, love!
2. Broken, fractured
3. Best, finest, greatest

# 6 of 12 – Question 3

There are synonyms for words in every part of speech, from nouns and adjectives to verbs and adverbs.

1. What Is the synonym for ‘Big’?

Choose from: small, tiny, minute or large

1. What is the synonym for ‘fast’?

Choose from: slow, pedestrian, snail-paced, quick

1. What is the synonym for ‘dark’?

Choose from: gloomy, light, bright, sunny

1. What is the synonym for ‘silent’?

Choose from: loud, totally quiet, deafening, blaring

Answers:

1. Large
2. Quick
3. Gloomy
4. Totally quiet

# 7 of 12 – Question 4

There are synonyms for words in every part of speech, from nouns and adjectives to verbs and adverbs.

1. What Isn’t the synonym for ‘excellent’?

Choose from: very good, outstanding, poor, top class

1. What isn’t the synonym for ‘strange’?

Choose from: bizarre, weird, normal, extraordinary

1. What isn’t the synonym for ‘clearly’?

Choose from: opaquely, transparently, obviously, evidently

1. What isn’t the synonym for ‘instantly’?

Choose from: in a flash, in an instant, in an hour’s time, instantaneously

Answers:

1. Poor
2. Normal
3. Opaquely
4. In an hour’s time

# 8 of 12 – Question 5

There are synonyms for words in every part of speech, from nouns and adjectives to verbs and adverbs.

Choose the one word or phrase that is a synonym of these conjunctions/connectives.

1. Because

Choices: but, outstanding, as, however

1. However

Choices: but, and, for, with

Answers:

1. As
2. And

# 9 of 12 – Questions 6

As we saw before, antonyms are words that have the opposite meaning.

In the following examples, what are the two antonyms in each sentence?

1. Sarah’s handwriting is atrocious whereas Muhammed’s is extraordinarily neat.
2. There is no wonder you need to sleep when you stay awake playing on your PS4 every night.

Answers:

1. Atrocious, extraordinarily, neat
2. Sleep, stay, awake

# 10 of 12 – Question 7

Let’s put antonyms into practice. Find the adjective that is not an antonym.

1. Good

Adjectives: bad, evil, corrupt, saintly

1. Legal

Adjectives: against the law, permissible, not allowed, unlawful

1. Respect

Adjectives: disrespect, acceptance, betrayal, dishonor

1. Democracy

Adjectives: tyranny, fairness, unelected, dictatorship

Answers:

1. Saintly
2. Permissible
3. Acceptance
4. Fairness

# 11 of 12 – Question 8

Find the verb that is not an antonym.

1. Lose

Verbs: win, prevail, be defeated, gain

1. Start

Verbs: begin, end, conclude, terminate

1. Impressively

Verbs: superbly, terribly, poorly, weakly

1. Carefully

Verbs: carelessly, clumsily, with caution, haphazardly

Answers:

1. Be defeated
2. Begin
3. Superbly
4. Haphazardly

# 12 of 12 – End

Well done. You have completed this session on antonyms and synonyms.

In this session we have covered:

* Definition of synonyms and antonyms
* Working with synonyms
* Working with antonyms

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.