

Antonyms

~ English Vocabulary · Competitive Exams ~



← circled = key info!



An **antonym** is a word **opposite** in meaning.

"Ancient" → **Modern**. Asked as "Choose the word **opposite** in meaning." Learn the bank, then drill!



Prefix tip → un-, in-, il-, im-, ir-, dis-, mis-, non-, anti- flip a word to its opposite:
happy → unhappy, legal → illegal, honest → dishonest.

① Set 1 – A words →

Word	Antonym	Note
Abandon	Retain	give up ↔ keep
Abhor	Adore	hate ↔ love
Abundance	Scarcity	plenty ↔ dearth
Accept	Reject	take ↔ refuse
Affluent	Poor	wealthy ↔ destitute
Altercation	Agreement	quarrel ↔ accord
Ambiguous	Clear	vague ↔ precise
Animosity	Affection	enmity ↔ love
Apprehensive	Confident	anxious ↔ assured
Artificial	Natural	fake ↔ real
Ascend	Descend	rise ↔ fall

Memory tip → store opposites in **pairs** – recall one, get the other free!

② Set 2 – B & C words

Word	Antonym	Note
Barren	Fertile	sterile ↔ productive
Benevolent	Malevolent	kind ↔ spiteful
Bold	Timid	brave ↔ fearful
Callous	Sensitive	hard-hearted ↔ tender
Candid	Devious	frank ↔ cunning
Capricious	Steady	fickle ↔ constant
Celestial	Earthly	heavenly ↔ worldly
Charming	Repulsive	pleasing ↔ repellent
Coarse	Refined	rough ↔ polished
Commend	Criticise	praise ↔ blame
Conceal	Reveal	hide ↔ disclose
Culpable	Blameless	guilty ↔ innocent

③ Set 3 – D words

Word	Antonym	Note
Dauntless	Timid	fearless ↔ cowardly
Dearth	Abundance	shortage ↔ plenty
Decay	Flourish	rot ↔ thrive
Decent	Indecent	prefix in- flips it
Dense	Sparse	thick ↔ scattered
Deny	Admit	refuse ↔ confess
Diligent	Lazy	hardworking ↔ idle
Distant	Near	far ↔ close
Divine	Earthly	holy ↔ human
Divulge	Conceal	reveal ↔ hide
Despise	Admire	scorn ↔ esteem

④ Set 4 – E & F words ↔

Word	Antonym	Note
Eager	Reluctant	keen ↔ unwilling
Eccentric	Normal	odd ↔ usual
Elegance	Vulgarity	grace ↔ crudeness
Eminent	Ordinary	famous ↔ unknown
Encourage	Discourage	prefix dis- flips it
Enormous	Tiny	huge ↔ minute
Enthusiastic	Apathetic	keen ↔ indifferent
Exodus	Influx	exit ↔ inflow
Fake	Genuine	counterfeit ↔ real
Feeble	Robust	weak ↔ sturdy
Fertile	Barren	productive ↔ barren
Fragile	Durable	brittle ↔ tough
Frugal	Extravagant	thrifty ↔ wasteful

⑤ Set 5 – G, H & I words

Word	Antonym	Note
Garrulous	Reticent	talkative ↔ silent
Generous	Miserly	giving ↔ stingy
Gigantic	Tiny	huge ↔ minute
Gloomy	Cheerful	dismal ↔ bright
Harmony	Discord	accord ↔ strife
Haughty	Humble	arrogant ↔ modest
Humility	Arrogance	modesty ↔ pride
Illicit	Lawful	illegal ↔ legal
Immense	Minute	vast ↔ tiny
Indolent	Diligent	lazy ↔ industrious
Innocent	Guilty	blameless ↔ culpable

<i>Inspid</i>	<i>Tasty</i>	<i>bland ↔ flavourful</i>
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⑥ Set 6 – J, K, L & M words

Word	Antonym	Note
Jubilant	Depressed	joyful ↔ downcast
Judicious	Foolish	wise ↔ imprudent
Keen	Dull	sharp ↔ blunt
Kind	Cruel	merciful ↔ ruthless
Laborious	Effortless	tiring ↔ easy
Lavish	Meagre	abundant ↔ scanty
Legal	Illegal	prefix il- flips it
Lenient	Strict	mild ↔ severe
Lucid	Obscure	clear ↔ vague
Mean	Generous	petty ↔ noble
Meagre	Abundant	scanty ↔ plenty
Merciless	Compassionate	cruel ↔ kind
Momentary	Permanent	brief ↔ lasting



Exam trap → pick the **direct** opposite, not a mere synonym or unrelated word. **Lucid** → choose **Obscure**, never “Bright”.

Watch these tricky opposites!

Nadir (lowest) · **Zenith** (highest)

Sober (calm) · **Panicky** (anxious)

Ally (friend) · **Enemy** (foe)

Vague (unclear) · **Definite** (clear)

⑦ Set 7 – N, O & P words

Word	Antonym	Note
Nadir	Zenith	lowest ↔ highest
Narrow	Broad	tight ↔ wide
Neat	Untidy	tidy ↔ messy
Negligent	Attentive	careless ↔ careful
Notorious	Famous	infamous ↔ reputable
Obscure	Distinct	unclear ↔ clear
Obstinate	Docile	stubborn ↔ yielding
Opaque	Transparent	cloudy ↔ clear
Opulent	Destitute	rich ↔ poor
Optimist	Pessimist	hopeful ↔ gloomy
Overt	Covert	open ↔ hidden
Parsimonious	Extravagant	stingy ↔ lavish
Placid	Turbulent	calm ↔ stormy
Precise	Vague	exact ↔ unclear
Profane	Sacred	unholy ↔ holy



Prefix tip 2 → **anti-** = against (*antibody*), **counter-** = opposite (*counterattack*), **de-** = reverse (*decode*). Spot the prefix, sense the flip!

⑧ Set 8 – R to Z words ↔

Word	Antonym	Note
Radiant	Dull	glowing ↔ dim
Reluctant	Willing	unwilling ↔ eager
Robust	Feeble	strong ↔ weak
Ruthless	Merciful	cruel ↔ kind
Scarcity	Plenty	lack ↔ abundance
Segregate	Unite	separate ↔ join
Superficial	Profound	shallow ↔ deep
Terminate	Commence	end ↔ begin
Transitory	Permanent	fleeting ↔ lasting
Triumph	Defeat	victory ↔ failure
Ugly	Beautiful	hideous ↔ comely
Unique	Common	rare ↔ ordinary
Vanish	Appear	disappear ↔ emerge
Virtue	Vice	goodness ↔ evil
Zeal	Apathy	passion ↔ indifference
Zenith	Nadir	peak ↔ bottom

✓ High-value pairs → Zenith / Nadir, Triumph / Defeat, Opulent / Destitute repeat in SSC year after year.

Exercise 1 – Choose the Antonym

Pick the word **opposite** in meaning to the word in **CAPITALS**.

1. ABUNDANCE (a) Plenty (b) Scarcity (c) Wealth (d) Excess
2. ASCEND (a) Climb (b) Rise (c) Descend (d) Mount
3. BENEVOLENT (a) Kind (b) Malevolent (c) Generous (d) Gentle
4. CANDID (a) Frank (b) Honest (c) Devious (d) Open
5. DILIGENT (a) Hardworking (b) Lazy (c) Careful (d) Sincere
6. ENORMOUS (a) Huge (b) Vast (c) Tiny (d) Giant
7. FRUGAL (a) Thrifty (b) Extravagant (c) Careful (d) Simple
8. GLOOMY (a) Dark (b) Sad (c) Cheerful (d) Dull
9. HAUGHTY (a) Proud (b) Arrogant (c) Humble (d) Vain
10. INNOCENT (a) Pure (b) Guilty (c) Naive (d) Simple
11. HARMONY (a) Accord (b) Peace (c) Discord (d) Unity
12. CONCEAL (a) Hide (b) Cover (c) Mask (d) Reveal

Answer Key – Exercise 1

1→ (b) Scarcity 2→ (c) Descend 3→ (b) Malevolent 4→ (c) Devious 5→ (b) Lazy
6→ (c) Tiny 7→ (b) Extravagant 8→ (c) Cheerful 9→ (c) Humble 10→ (b) Guilty
11→ (c) Discord 12→ (d) Reveal



Beware distractors – options (a), (b), (d) are often **synonyms** of the given word. The **odd one out** is your antonym!

Exercise 2 – Choose the Antonym ☆

Pick the word **opposite** in meaning to the word in **CAPITALS**.

1. LUCID (a) Clear (b) Obscure (c) Bright (d) Plain
2. MEAGRE (a) Scanty (b) Little (c) Abundant (d) Poor
3. NADIR (a) Bottom (b) Base (c) Zenith (d) Depth
4. OPAQUE (a) Dull (b) Transparent (c) Solid (d) Cloudy
5. OPTIMIST (a) Hopeful (b) Dreamer (c) Pessimist (d) Realist
6. RELUCTANT (a) Unwilling (b) Willing (c) Hesitant (d) Averse
7. ROBUST (a) Strong (b) Sturdy (c) Feeble (d) Healthy
8. TRANSITORY (a) Brief (b) Fleeting (c) Permanent (d) Passing
9. TRIUMPH (a) Victory (b) Success (c) Defeat (d) Win
10. VIRTUE (a) Goodness (b) Merit (c) Vice (d) Honour
11. GARRULOUS (a) Chatty (b) Talkative (c) Reticent (d) Wordy
12. DIVULGE (a) Reveal (b) Disclose (c) Conceal (d) Expose

Answer Key – Exercise 2

1→ (b) Obscure 2→ (c) Abundant 3→ (c) Zenith 4→ (b) Transparent 5→ (c) Pessimist 6→ (b) Willing 7→ (c) Feeble 8→ (c) Permanent 9→ (c) Defeat 10→ (c) Vice 11→ (c) Reticent 12→ (c) Conceal

Last-minute revision line

Praise ↔ Condemn

Ancient ↔ Modern

Victory ↔ Defeat

Expand ↔ Contract

Accept ↔ Reject

Barren ↔ Fertile

☆ Know the opposite – double your word power! ☆