# Synonyms and Antonyms

Standard difficulty · 20 questions · 40 marks · Time: 38 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: ____ / 40

Write full answers in Sections B and C. Answers are on the last page — try every question first!

## Section A — Choose the correct answer — 8 × 1 = 8 marks

**1.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “hostile”.
**(a)** antagonistic **(b)** lucid **(c)** welcoming **(d)** uneasy

**2.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “endure”.
**(a)** watchful **(b)** sympathy **(c)** surrender **(d)** bear

**3.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “sincere”.
**(a)** false **(b)** abolish **(c)** triumphant **(d)** honest

**4.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “novice”.
**(a)** genuine **(b)** expert **(c)** see-through **(d)** beginner

**5.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “inferior”.
**(a)** petty **(b)** lesser **(c)** confident **(d)** better

**6.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “frugal”.
**(a)** extravagant **(b)** sparing **(c)** free **(d)** adversity

**7.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “trivial”.
**(a)** averse **(b)** significant **(c)** petty **(d)** ordinary

**8.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “fertile”.
**(a)** barren **(b)** fruitful **(c)** modest **(d)** compassion

## Section B — Short answer — 8 × 2 = 16 marks

**9.** Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “vigilant”, “lenient”.

**10.** Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “compassion”, “ridicule”.

**11.** Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “negligent”, “vivid”.

**12.** Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “abundant”, “conceal”.

**13.** Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “benevolent”, “candid”.

**14.** Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “meagre”, “abolish”.

**15.** Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) Copying the same table ten times was TEDIOUS. (b) The jeweller confirmed that the pearl was GENUINE.

**16.** Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) There are two VACANT seats in the last row. (b) The old man spoke in a FEEBLE voice.

## Section C — Longer answers — 4 × 4 = 16 marks

**17.** For the word “modest”: (a) write what it means, (b) give one synonym and one antonym, (c) use it in a sentence of your own.

**18.** For the word “obstinate”: (a) write what it means, (b) give one synonym and one antonym, (c) use it in a sentence of your own.

**19.** Sort these six words into three pairs of OPPOSITES: “reveal”, “opaque”, “conceal”, “fake”, “transparent”, “genuine”.

**20.** Sort these six words into three pairs of words with the SAME meaning: “tolerant”, “gloomy”, “lenient”, “middling”, “dreary”, “mediocre”.

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# Answer key

Synonyms and Antonyms · AW-10E-SYN-2026-V1 · For parents — fold back or tear off before handing the sheet to your child.

| Q | Answer | Working |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **(a) antagonistic** | Hostile: unfriendly and ready to argue or fight. Synonyms: unfriendly, aggressive, antagonistic. |
| 2 | **(d) bear** | Endure: to suffer something difficult patiently. Synonyms: bear, tolerate, withstand. |
| 3 | **(d) honest** | Sincere: truly meaning what you say or feel. Synonyms: genuine, honest, heartfelt. |
| 4 | **(d) beginner** | Novice: a person new to an activity. Synonyms: beginner, learner, newcomer. |
| 5 | **(d) better** | Inferior: lower in quality or rank. Opposites: superior, better. |
| 6 | **(a) extravagant** | Frugal: careful not to spend more money than necessary. Opposites: wasteful, extravagant. |
| 7 | **(b) significant** | Trivial: of little importance. Opposites: important, significant. |
| 8 | **(a) barren** | Fertile: able to produce many crops or plants. Opposites: barren, infertile. |
| 9 | **vigilant: watchful (or alert, attentive); lenient: mild (or tolerant, merciful)** | Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning. |
| 10 | **compassion: sympathy (or kindness, pity); ridicule: mock (or deride, tease)** | Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning. |
| 11 | **negligent: careless (or neglectful, lax); vivid: bright (or clear, striking)** | Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning. |
| 12 | **abundant: scarce (or sparse); conceal: reveal (or expose)** | Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning. |
| 13 | **benevolent: cruel (or malevolent); candid: guarded (or evasive)** | Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning. |
| 14 | **meagre: ample (or plentiful); abolish: establish (or create)** | Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning. |
| 15 | **(a) exciting (or interesting) (b) fake (or counterfeit)** | The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word. |
| 16 | **(a) occupied (or full) (b) strong (or robust)** | The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word. |
| 17 | **(a) Not talking much about your own abilities. (b) Synonym: humble (or unassuming, shy); antonym: boastful (or arrogant). (c) Sample: The modest champion thanked her coach first.** | Any sentence that uses the word correctly. |
| 18 | **(a) Refusing to change your mind. (b) Synonym: stubborn (or adamant, headstrong); antonym: flexible (or** | Any sentence that uses the word correctly. |

| Q | Answer | Working |
|---|---|---|
| | yielding). (c) Sample: The obstinate mule would not cross the bridge. | |
| 19 | conceal – reveal; transparent – opaque; genuine – fake | — |
| 20 | gloomy – dreary; lenient – tolerant; mediocre – middling | — |