# 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 “impeccable”.
**(a)** gentle **(b)** faultless **(c)** imperfect **(d)** expressive

**2.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “acrimonious”.
**(a)** hostile **(b)** brief **(c)** cordial **(d)** wicked

**3.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “recalcitrant”.
**(a)** reserved **(b)** taciturn **(c)** unruly **(d)** compliant

**4.** Choose the word closest in meaning to “lucid”.
**(a)** reduce **(b)** coherent **(c)** big-hearted **(d)** confusing

**5.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “gregarious”.
**(a)** reserved **(b)** friendly **(c)** defiant **(d)** pacify

**6.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “resilient”.
**(a)** vulnerable **(b)** mitigate **(c)** adaptable **(d)** wise

**7.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “circumspect”.
**(a)** omnipresent **(b)** prudent **(c)** vague **(d)** reckless

**8.** Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “vindicate”.
**(a)** incriminate **(b)** resilient **(c)** exonerate **(d)** universal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**15.** Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) It is hard to DISCERN the truth from rumours. (b) The TACITURN watchman only nodded when we passed.

**16.** Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) The good results helped BOLSTER her confidence. (b) The question seemed INNOCUOUS, but it upset him.

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

**17.** For the word “nonchalant”: (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 “exacerbate”: (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: “careless”, “fastidious”, “exacerbate”, “improve”, “pragmatic”, “impractical”.

**20.** Sort these six words into three pairs of words with the SAME meaning: “conscientious”, “mitigate”, “acrimonious”, “lessen”, “scrupulous”, “rancorous”.

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# Answer key

Synonyms and Antonyms · AW-12E-SYN-2026-V1 · For parents — fold back or tear off before handing the sheet to your child.

| Q | Answer | Working |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **(b) faultless** | Impeccable: without any fault. Synonyms: flawless, perfect, faultless. |
| 2 | **(a) hostile** | Acrimonious: angry and bitter. Synonyms: bitter, hostile, rancorous. |
| 3 | **(c) unruly** | Recalcitrant: refusing to obey or co-operate. Synonyms: defiant, unruly, disobedient. |
| 4 | **(b) coherent** | Lucid: clearly expressed and easy to understand. Synonyms: clear, intelligible, coherent. |
| 5 | **(a) reserved** | Gregarious: fond of the company of others. Opposites: reserved, unsociable. |
| 6 | **(a) vulnerable** | Resilient: able to recover quickly from difficulty. Opposites: fragile, vulnerable. |
| 7 | **(d) reckless** | Circumspect: careful to consider all risks before acting. Opposites: reckless, rash. |
| 8 | **(a) incriminate** | Vindicate: to show that someone was right or not guilty. Opposites: accuse, incriminate. |
| 9 | **gullible: credulous (or naive, trusting); alleviate: relieve (or ease, lessen)** | Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning. |
| 10 | **placate: pacify (or calm, appease); magnanimous: generous (or big-hearted, noble)** | Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning. |
| 11 | **scrupulous: principled (or conscientious, upright); ambiguous: unclear (or vague, equivocal)** | Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning. |
| 12 | **whimsical: serious (or sober); cogent: weak (or unconvincing)** | Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning. |
| 13 | **diffident: confident (or assertive); meticulous: sloppy (or careless)** | Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning. |
| 14 | **zealous: apathetic (or indifferent); sagacious: foolish (or unwise)** | Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning. |
| 15 | **(a) overlook (or miss) (b) talkative (or garrulous)** | The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word. |
| 16 | **(a) weaken (or undermine) (b) harmful (or offensive)** | The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word. |
| 17 | **(a) Calm and seeming not to care. (b) Synonym: unconcerned (or casual, indifferent); antonym: anxious (or concerned). (c) Sample: She looked nonchalant even as the deadline came close.** | Any sentence that uses the word correctly. |

| Q | Answer | Working |
|---|---|---|
| 18 | **(a) To make a bad situation worse. (b) Synonym: worsen (or aggravate, intensify); antonym: improve (or ease). (c) Sample: Burning crop stubble can exacerbate air pollution.** | Any sentence that uses the word correctly. |
| 19 | **fastidious – careless; exacerbate – improve; pragmatic – impractical** | — |
| 20 | **mitigate – lessen; acrimonious – rancorous; scrupulous – conscientious** | — |



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