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 “scarce”.
(a) fix **(b)** abundant **(c)** sparse **(d)** truthful

2. Choose the word closest in meaning to “victory”.
(a) success **(b)** loss **(c)** authorise **(d)** obey

3. Choose the word closest in meaning to “humble”.
(a) delicate **(b)** proud **(c)** courteous **(d)** modest

4. Choose the word closest in meaning to “damp”.
(a) humid **(b)** dry **(c)** shallow **(d)** smart

5. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “complete”.
(a) begin **(b)** end **(c)** rush **(d)** authorise

6. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “honest”.
(a) sincere **(b)** vacant **(c)** deceitful **(d)** receive

7. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “narrow”.
(a) regular **(b)** wide **(c)** tight **(d)** keen

8. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to “obey”.
(a) superficial **(b)** defy **(c)** comply **(d)** meek

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

9. Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “fierce”, “expand”.

10. Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “amazing”, “weary”.

11. Write one synonym (a word with the same meaning) for each: “purchase”, “ancestor”.

12. Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “permit”, “accept”.

13. Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “brave”, “rapid”.

14. Write one antonym (a word with the opposite meaning) for each: “timid”, “polite”.

15. Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) The LOYAL dog waited at the gate every evening. (b) Pack the glass bowl carefully because it is FRAGILE.

16. Rewrite each sentence, replacing the word in capitals with a word of OPPOSITE meaning: (a) It was FOOLISH to swim in the river during the flood. (b) Use the SHARP knife carefully when cutting vegetables.

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

17. For the word “empty”: (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 “shallow”: (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: “wealthy”, “special”, “linger”, “hurry”, “ordinary”, “poor”.

20. Sort these six words into three pairs of words with the SAME meaning: “hollow”, “disturb”, “empty”, “annoy”, “assemble”, “gather”.

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Answer key

Synonyms and Antonyms · AW-6E-SYN-2026-V1 · For parents — fold back or tear off before handing the sheet to your child.

Q	Answer	Working
1	**(c) sparse**	Scarce: hard to find because there is very little. Synonyms: rare, sparse.
2	**(a) success**	Victory: success in a game, contest or battle. Synonyms: win, triumph, success.
3	**(d) modest**	Humble: not proud; not thinking you are better than others. Synonyms: modest, meek.
4	**(a) humid**	Damp: slightly wet. Synonyms: moist, humid, wet.
5	**(a) begin**	Complete: to finish something fully. Opposites: start, begin.
6	**(c) deceitful**	Honest: telling the truth and not cheating. Opposites: dishonest, deceitful.
7	**(b) wide**	Narrow: small from one side to the other. Opposites: wide, broad.
8	**(b) defy**	Obey: to do what you are told to do. Opposites: disobey, defy.
9	**fierce: ferocious (or savage, wild); expand: enlarge (or grow, widen)**	Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning.
10	**amazing: astonishing (or wonderful, incredible); weary: tired (or exhausted, fatigued)**	Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning.
11	**purchase: buy (or acquire); ancestor: forefather (or forebear)**	Any one listed synonym, or another word with the same meaning.
12	**permit: forbid (or ban); accept: refuse (or reject)**	Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning.
13	**brave: cowardly (or timid); rapid: slow (or gradual)**	Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning.
14	**timid: bold (or confident); polite: rude (or impolite)**	Any one listed antonym, or another word with the opposite meaning.
15	**(a) disloyal (or unfaithful) (b) sturdy (or strong)**	The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word.
16	**(a) wise (or sensible) (b) blunt (or dull)**	The sentence may need a small change to read well with the new word.
17	**(a) Containing nothing. (b) Synonym: vacant (or bare, hollow); antonym: full (or filled). (c) Sample: By evening the fruit basket was empty.**	Any sentence that uses the word correctly.
18	**(a) Not deep. (b) Synonym: superficial (or slight); antonym: deep (or profound). (c) Sample: The children waded across the shallow stream.**	Any sentence that uses the word correctly.

Q	Answer	Working
19	**wealthy – poor; hurry – linger; ordinary – special**	—
20	**gather – assemble; empty – hollow; annoy – disturb**	—