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-9E-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**	—