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Unit 2

Synonyms

Synonyms are words which have the same or nearly the same meanings. Learning synonyms will help you expand your vocabulary.

Examples:

- imitate – emulate, mimic, ape
- disobedient – unruly, insubordinate, defiant
- mayhem – chaos, disorder, pandemonium
- opponent – rival, adversary, competitor
- sanitize – disinfect, sterilize, decontaminate
- monotonous – tedious, boring, humdrum
- warmth – affection, hospitality, cordiality
- unfortunately – regrettably, unluckily, lamentably

As no two words have the exact same meaning, you should take note how each synonym differs in meaning from the others and select the most appropriate one to suit the context of the sentence.

Example

Here are three synonyms for the word “reasonable”: sensible, economical, satisfactory

While the others tried too hard to impress the interviewers, Sandy gave **sensible** answers and asked pertinent questions, which eventually landed her the job.

The Crown Lodge is an **economical** choice with its low rates and close proximity to the town centre.

The laptop’s battery life is just **satisfactory** although it scores high on weight, design and its keyboard.

Word	Meaning
sensible	showing judgement and good sense
economical	inexpensive
satisfactory	acceptable, passable

3

Write the synonyms of the highlighted words in the spaces provided. Use the correct form of the words in the boxes.

persistent	rational	overbearing	consider	sceptical
disappointment	underprivileged	adjust	replacement	exceedingly
disabled	enraged	imprisonment	unfathomable	alternative

- Jack was an **extremely** shy boy who would start trembling whenever he had to speak up in class.

- The princess was baffled because her pet cat would not eat or drink for some **inexplicable** reason.

- Everyone was enthusiastic about the new weight loss diet but Martha remained **unconvinced** of its efficacy. _____
- Despite countless **setbacks**, he persevered in the hope that he would one day become the most sought-after photographer in the movie industry. _____
- People who suffer from **chronic** pain often fall into depression. _____
- The new organisation was set up to help **disadvantaged** youths find suitable educational, training and career opportunities. _____
- We have to find a good **substitute** for Debbie, now that she is leaving our basketball team for good.

- The teacher was **irate** when she discovered that plagiarism was rampant among her students.

- The struggling couple had no **option** but to give up their child for adoption. _____
- Many birds **adapt** to changing seasonal conditions by migrating to warmer regions. _____
- The new community hall, which is equipped with facilities and conveniences for the physically **handicapped**, opened its doors last week. _____
- After twenty years of **incarceration**, the former manager was unable to find a suitable job and turned to social welfare services for help. _____

13. The old lady may be **cantankerous** and insufferable, but she does have her kind moments.

14. Jimmy is a little too **stout** for his own good. _____
15. The supervisor was quick to **refute** the suggestion that there is an unfair distribution of workload.

4

Complete the sentences with the antonym of the word given in brackets. Choose from the list of words below. Remember to use the correct form of the word where necessary.

salubrious	efficient	concur	effective	intrepid
oblivious	nonchalance	gregarious	retrograde	churlish
therapeutic	cohesive	systematic	morose	flamboyant

- After our team lost the football match, we were thoroughly _____ for days. Even our coach couldn't lift our spirits with his funny jokes. (cheerful)
- Patrick is a/an _____ person who enjoys the company of his team of colleagues. (aloof)
- She spoke about her famous cousin with apparent _____. (ardour)
- Both the union and management _____ on the need to raise productivity in order to boost the economy. (disagree)
- She is extremely popular among the students because of her clear and _____ style of teaching. (haphazard)
- With its _____ air, Okinawa was our ideal holiday destination after several weeks of enduring the haze in Singapore. (unhealthy)
- The band's _____ lead singer was clearly the centre of attraction at the concert. (restrained)
- The tour will include a visit to a hot spring that is well-known for its _____ effects on diseases of the skin. (toxic)

12. Four tug_____ workers are reportedly safe after falling into the Mississippi River, near Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.
 13. We found a troop of mushrooms and _____stools growing around an old tree stump during our nature walk today.
 14. Stella missed school for a week because of a throat and wind_____ infection.
 15. The traffic police have announced a nationwide crack_____ on drunk driving this holiday season.
-

3

Each definition below corresponds to a compound word. For example, (1) is the definition of the word in (a). Use the definitions to help you fill in the missing part of each compound word and write the new word in the space provided.

1. food made from a type of maize that puffs up when heated
2. to do better than someone or something else
3. a specific time or date by which something has to be completed
4. a tall building, usually found in a city
5. a place where the dead are buried
6. a person whose job is to write the text of an advertisement
7. a short pointed piece of wood or plastic used for removing bits of food between your teeth
8. force someone to pay money or do something by threatening to reveal embarrassing information about them
9. any of five tendons behind your knee
10. a piece of exercise equipment consisting of a moving belt on which you run or walk
11. the script for a film, including camera directions

6. People who ascend mountain slopes quickly are likely to be affected by _____itude sickness.
7. In my presentation today, I will give an overview of the _____ous types of pollution before focusing on my main topic, which is “The Causes and Effects of Air Pollution”.
8. Saliva is produced by the salivary gland and secreted into your mouth via the salivary _____s.
9. Plastic bags, synthetics, plastic bottles, tin cans and computer hardware make life easy for us, but they are not _____degradable as they do not break down naturally, and therefore pose a serious threat to our environment.
10. A deep scar across his left cheek was _____ible in the pale moonlight. Yolanda instantly recognised the man who had suffered a knife attack on his face while trying to save her from a couple of gangsters last May.
11. I visited an _____dontist to have some of my crooked teeth fixed and I left the clinic with a mouth full of braces!
12. Alison was full of sym_____y when she heard about Daisy’s plight and she referred the destitute woman to a local charity.
13. The hotel was not only comfortable, the service staff were also very warm and _____itable throughout my stay there.
14. The gifted writer was dys_____c as a child but managed to overcome the handicap through the care and support of his parents.
15. Mrs Henry’s son recently bought her a large house with a swimming pool and a neatly _____icured garden. She was the envy of her friends!

3

Each group of words contains a common root. Unscramble each word and match it to the correct meaning. Refer to the table of word roots and their meaning.

aecfrtr eraiflg efmtamrg

1. Easily broken or damaged: _____
2. To make a ray of light change direction when it hits a surface (such as water or glass): _____
3. A small broken part of something large: _____