

ANTONYMS

A

accidental – deliberate
acknowledge – ignore
aid – oppose
alert – slow
assemble – disperse
above – below
absent – present
accept – refuse
adult – child
alive – dead

B

base – summit
behind – ahead
below – above
brave – timid
bright – dull
bad – good
bent – straight
better – worse
big – small
bitter – sweet
black – white
bow – stern
broad – narrow
buy – sell

F

fail – succeed
fall – rise
famous – unknown
fancy – fact
feeble – strong
false – true
familiar – strange
far – near
forget – remember
fat – lean/thin
few – many
foolish – wise
found – lost
friendly – hostile
future – past

C

calm – excited
captive – captor
catch – throw
cease – begin
civilized – savage
cheap – expensive

E

eager – reluctant
earn – spend
end – begin
enjoy – suffer
enough – inadequate
early – late
east – west
empty – full
enemy – friend
entrance – exit

G

gather – separate
gaudy – subtle
gay – miserable
genuine – fake
gloomy – cheerful
generous – selfish/stingy
give – receive/take
guest – host
guilty – innocent

D

delicate – robust
delight – disgust
descend – ascend
despair – hope
divide – unite/join/multiply
dry – wet
dwarf – giant
day – night
deep – shallow
defeat – victory
difficult – easy
die – live

H

hamper – help
hardship – luxury
harmful – beneficial
height – depth
heroic – cowardly
hard – soft
hate – love
here – there
high – low
honest – dishonest
humble – proud

I

idea – reality
identical – unlike
ignorant – learned
illegal – lawful
imaginary – real
in – out

J

jeopardy – safety
join – divide
jolly – morose
just – unfair
justice – dishonour
junior – senior
joy – sorrow

K

keen – indifferent
key – insignificant
kindle – extinguish
kindred – unrelated
king – subject
kind – cruel

L

laborious – easy
laud – belittle
laugh – weep
lazy – hardworking
lenient – strict
large – tiny
learn – teach
long – short
loud – soft

M

mad – sane
majority – minority
maximum – minimum
meek – haughty
migrate – settle
mild – severe
miser – spendthrift

N

nasty – nice
native – foreigner
near – distant
neglect – notice
neutral – biased
naughty – good
new – old
noisy – quiet
north – south

R

rational – silly
reveal – conceal
raw – cooked

S

separate – join
seriously – lightly
shout – whisper

O

object – agree
observation – oversight
obsolete – current
obstacle – support
occupied – vacant
often – seldom
old – young
opaque – transparent

P

pardon – punish
poison – antidote
praise – condemn
professional – amateur
punish – reward
poverty – prosperity
permanent – temporary
peace – war
polite – rude
poor – rich

T

tight – loose
tame – wild
tall – short
talk – listen
temporary – permanent
terminate – commence
thick – thin
tiny – huge

U

ultimate – initial
undergo – avoid
ugly – beautiful
under – over

V

vain – modest
violent – gentle

W

wander – settle
wide – narrow
win – lose

Y

yearn – loathe
youthful – aged

Q

queer – normal
question – solution
quick – slow
quit – continue
quiet – noisy

ENRICHMENT

Give the opposite of the following words.

- proud
- shallow
- narrow
- rich
- generous
- rich
- empty
- short
- polite

ENRICHMENT

Give the opposite of the underlined words.

1. A cheap watch.
2. A difficult question.
3. A bright colour.
4. A humble leader.

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer which is opposite in meaning to replace the word underlined.

- Karen is a proud girl.
- A pretty C humble
- B beautiful D honest

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer which is opposite in meaning to replace the word underlined.

- These mangoes are sweet.
- A ripe C good
- B cook D sour

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer which is opposite in meaning to replace the word underlined.

- Are the questions easy?
- A true C difficult
- B wrong D right
- Mr Goh went to work late.
- A down C dry
- B early D wet

DID YOU KNOW?

The opposite of some words are formed by:

- adding the prefix
 - dis - e.g. harmony - disharmony
loyal - disloyal
 - il - e.g. legible - illegible
legitimate - illegitimate
 - im - e.g. passable - impassable
patient - impatient
 - in - e.g. appropriate - inappropriate
sufficient - insufficient
 - mis - e.g. manage - mismanage
fit - misfit
 - ir - e.g. respective - irrelative
relevant - irrelevant
 - un - e.g. truth - untruth
stick - unstick
- Changing the prefix
 - e.g. inferior - superior
inward - outward
external - internal
- Changing the suffix
 - e.g. merciful - merciless
cheerful - cheerless
painful - painless

A
N
T
O
N
Y
M
S

A
Allow - Forbid
Absent - Present
Active - Passive
Awake - Asleep

Add - Subtract
Accept - Deny
Attract - Repel

B
Build - Destroy
Black - White
Bury - Exhume
Break - Mend

Believe - Doubt
Begin - End
Buy - Sell
Brilliant - Dull

C
Clean - Dirty
Cautious - Reckless
Collect - Dispense
Comfort - Upset
Courage - Cowardice
Cruel - Kind
Candid - Cunning

Clean - Dirty

Cautious - Reckless

Collect - Dispense

Comfort - Upset

Courage - Cowardice

Cruel - Kind

Candid - Cunning

D
Dark - Bright
Dangerous - Safe
Damage - Repair
Destroy - Make
Distant - Near
Dull - Interesting

Dark - Bright

Dangerous - Safe

Damage - Repair

Destroy - Make

Distant - Near

Dull - Interesting

E
Enemy - Friend
End - Start
Ebb - Flow
Extended - Partial

Fat - Thin

Far - Near

Famous - Unknown

Fit - Unwell

Follow - Lead

Forget - Remember

Full - Empty

Fury - Serenity

Enemy - Friend

End - Start

Ebb - Flow

Extended - Partial

G
Good - Bad
Giant - Miniature
Greedy - Unselfish
Generous - Selfish
Give - Take

H
Hard - Soft
Hot - Cold
Healthy - Unwell
Hide - Reveal
Hold - Let go

I
Inside - Outside
Illegal - Legal
Idle - Working
Ill - Well

J
Join - Separate
Joy - Sorrow
Just - Later
Jagged - Even
Jeer - Flatter

K
Kind - Cruel
Keen - Indifferent
Keep - Discard
Kid - Adult

L
Lend - Borrow
Low - High
Love - Hate
Left - Right
Let - Forbid

M
Major - Minor
Maximum - Minimum
Moderate - Extreme
Moist - Dry
Man - Woman

N
New - Old
North - South
Need - Option
Noise - Silence
Night - Day
Null - Valid

O
Open - Close
Obtain - Lose
Obstruct - Assist
Often - Seldom
Obedient - Disobedient
Omit - Include

P
Patience - Impatience
Peace - War
Pride - Humility
Prosper - Decline
Polite - Rude

R
Respect - Disrespect
Reserve - Use
Robust - Weak
Rigid - Floppy
Right - Wrong

S
Strong - Weak
Sorrow - Joy
Success - Failure
Sink - Float
Stop - Go

T
Terror - Security
Trouble - Ease
Tentative - Sure
Truth - Lie
Thin - Fat

V
Valuable - Worthless
Victory - Defeat
Vivid - Dull

W
Work - Rest
Well - Sick
West - East
Wise - Foolish

Y
Yell - Whisper
Young - Old

ENRICHMENT

Give the antonym of each word by adding a few letters before the word.

- ripe -
- screw -
- obey -
- fold -
- lock -
- appear -

ENRICHMENT

Rewrite these sentences using the antonyms of the words underlined.

- She found her watch here.
- The thick dictionary is quite heavy.
- Please open the door when you go in.
- They want to sell the old house.
- Students love that kind teacher.
- It is dangerous to play in the mining pool.



- A**
- Abandon - **Keep**
 - Ability - **Incapacity**
 - Abstain - **Indulge**
 - Accurate - **Careless**
 - Adverse - **Favourable**
 - Admit - **Deny**
 - Afraid - **Bold**
 - Agile - **Clumsy**
 - Abase - **Exalt**
 - Abundance - **Scarcity**
 - Arrival - **Departure**
 - Alone - **Together**
 - Ancient - **Modern**
 - Answer - **Question**
 - Awake - **Ignorant**
 - Adore - **Despise**
 - Alert - **Sleepy**
 - All - **Some**

- C**
- Call - **Dismiss**
 - Calm - **Disturbed**
 - Cancel - **Confirm**
 - Capital - **Minor**
 - Care - **Neglect**
 - Cast - **Keep**
 - Certain - **Doubtful**
 - Chaos - **Order**
 - Chaste - **Corrupt**
 - Choose - **Reject**
 - Come - **Go**
 - Compare - **Contrast**
 - Complex - **Simple**
 - Conceal - **Reveal**
 - Confess - **Deny**
 - Cool - **Warm**
 - Copy - **Original**
 - Cry - **Laugh**

- E**
- Eager - **Indifferent**
 - Early - **Late**
 - Earn - **Spend**
 - Effect - **Cause**
 - Elastic - **Rigid**
 - Elude - **Encounter**
 - Employ - **Dismiss**
 - End - **Begin**
 - Enlarge - **Diminish**
 - Enjoy - **Detest**
 - Exact - **Vague**
 - Excess - **Shortage**
 - Expel - **Admit**
 - Engage - **Withdraw**
 - Excavate - **Bury**
 - Elaborate - **Simple**
 - Equip - **Dismantle**
 - Enlighten - **Mystify**

- G**
- Gain - **Lose**
 - Gallant - **Cowardly**
 - Gather - **Disperse**
 - Gay - **Sad**
 - Gentle - **Rough**
 - Genuine - **Fake**
 - Glad - **Sorry**
 - Gloomy - **Cheerful**
 - Glorify - **Defame**
 - Gradual - **Sudden**
 - Great - **Small**
 - Greedy - **Unselfish**
 - Grief - **Joy**
 - Grieve - **Rejoice**
 - Grim - **Benign**
 - Grow - **Decline**
 - Guilty - **Innocent**
 - Giant - **Dwarf**

- I**
- Ideal - **Real**
 - Ignite - **Extinguish**
 - Illogical - **Logical**
 - Imaginary - **Real**
 - Import - **Export**
 - Income - **Expenditure**
 - Increase - **Decrease**
 - Inferior - **Superior**
 - Inquiry - **Reply**
 - Inside - **Outside**
 - Interesting - **Dull**
 - Invade - **Evacuate**
 - Irate - **Calm**
 - Isolate - **Unite**
 - Intentional - **Accidental**
 - Itinerant - **Stationary**

- B**
- Back - **Front**
 - Bad - **Good**
 - Beg - **Demand**
 - Bend - **Straighten**
 - Benefit - **Loss**
 - Bit - **Whole**
 - Blame - **Praise**
 - Blank - **Full**
 - Bless - **Curse**
 - Blind - **Seeing**
 - Bold - **Timid**
 - Bore - **Interest**
 - Brief - **Long**
 - Brim - **Centre**
 - Build - **Demolish**
 - Burden - **Ease**
 - Busy - **Lazy**
 - Blend - **Separate**

- D**
- Damage - **Repair**
 - Damp - **Dry**
 - Dawn - **Sunset**
 - Disappoint - **Satisfy**
 - Discount - **Premium**
 - Debit - **Credit**
 - Decisive - **Uncertain**
 - Decline - **Accept**
 - Decrease - **Increase**
 - Delete - **Insert**
 - Detach - **Attach**
 - Detest - **Love**
 - Dream - **Reality**
 - Drowsy - **Alert**
 - Drunk - **Sober**
 - Disgrace - **Honour**
 - Day - **Night**
 - Dead - **Alive**

- F**
- Fable - **Fact**
 - Fabulous - **Real**
 - Fact - **Fiction**
 - Fair - **Dark**
 - Fanatic - **Cynic**
 - Fast - **Slow**
 - Fatigue - **Freshness**
 - Fault - **Perfection**
 - Figurative - **Literal**
 - Futile - **Worthwhile**
 - First - **Last**
 - Find - **Lose**
 - Finish - **Begin**
 - Float - **Sink**
 - Forget - **Remember**
 - Follow - **Lead**
 - Former - **Latter**
 - Fresh - **Stale**
 - Friendly - **Hostile**

- H**
- Habitual - **Rare**
 - Halt - **Proceed**
 - Happy - **Sad**
 - Hardy - **Weak**
 - Harm - **Benefit**
 - Harvest - **Sow**
 - Hate - **Love**
 - Hazy - **Clear**
 - Heal - **Wound**
 - Heavy - **Light**
 - Heed - **Ignore**
 - Here - **There**
 - Hide - **Reveal**
 - Hill - **Valley**
 - Hit - **Miss**
 - Hollow - **Solid**
 - Huge - **Tiny**
 - Hurry - **Linger**

- J**
- Jagged - **Even**
 - Jealous - **Content**
 - Jeer - **Flatter**
 - Jeopardy - **Security**
 - Jolly - **Sad**
 - Jovial - **Gloomy**
 - Jubilant - **Mournful**
 - Judicious - **Rash**
 - Junior - **Senior**
 - Justice - **Unfairness**
 - Justify - **Censure**

