

36 Antonyms

An **antonym** is a word that is opposite in meaning to another, e.g. big – small, hot – cold, love – hate. Antonyms are often given in dictionaries and thesauruses to help you build your vocabulary and language knowledge.



GETTING STARTED

Match up the eighteen pairs of antonyms. One pair has already been found for you.

enthusiastic	generous	fascinating	brave	detest	light
peaceful	malevolent	difficult	feeble	apathetic	cure
considerate	cowardly	hazy	safe	tedious	rich
broad	powerful	slender	clear	poor	selfish
hostile	knowledgeable	admire	ignorant	miserly	injure
benevolent	dangerous	straightforward	careless	meticulous	heavy

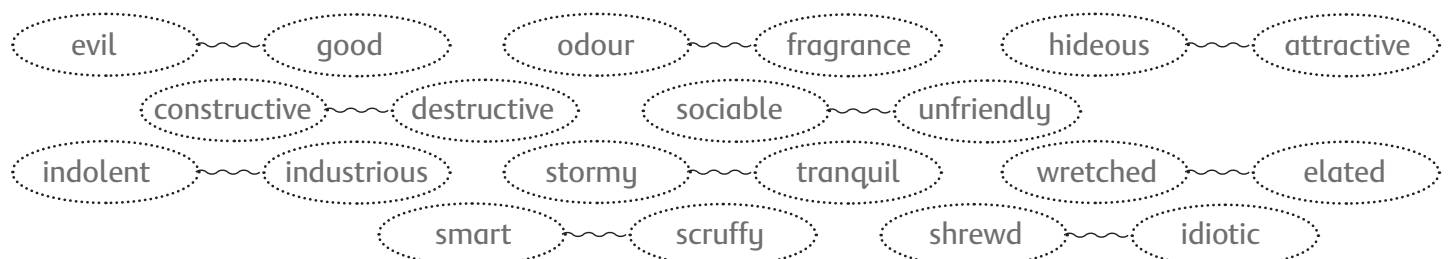
1. dangerous safe 7. _____ _____ 13. _____ _____
2. _____ _____ 8. _____ _____ 14. _____ _____
3. _____ _____ 9. _____ _____ 15. _____ _____
4. _____ _____ 10. _____ _____ 16. _____ _____
5. _____ _____ 11. _____ _____ 17. _____ _____
6. _____ _____ 12. _____ _____ 18. _____ _____



MOVING ON

Some words are positive, and others describe negative ideas or meanings. Put the pairs of antonyms into either the positive or negative column.

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE



How many did you get right? 10 = NOVICE 20 = EXPERT 30 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools and your Oxford Student's Dictionary for these activities