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EDUCATION **IDE**
Rajiv Gandhi University

BAENC203 ENGLISH COMPULSORY-V (ADVANCED GRAMMAR AND APPLIED LANGUAGE-II)



**BA (ENGLISH
COMPULSORY)
4TH SEMESTER**

Rajiv Gandhi University

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Advanced Grammar and Applied Language Skills II

(English Compulsory V)

BAENC203

BA

IV Semester



RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA - 791 112

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About the University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is a premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and has completed twenty-five years of its existence. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the university on 4th February, 1984 at Rono Hills, where the present campus is located.

Ever since its inception, the university has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The university received academic recognition under Section 2(f) from the University Grants Commission on 28th March, 1985 and started functioning from 1st April, 1985. It got financial recognition under section 12-B of the UGC on 25th March, 1994. Since then Rajiv Gandhi University, (then Arunachal University) has carved a niche for itself in the educational scenario of the country following its selection as a University with potential for excellence by a high-level expert committee of the University Grants Commission from among universities in India.

The University was converted into a Central University with effect from 9th April, 2007 as per notification of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The University is located atop Rono Hills on a picturesque tableland of 302 acres overlooking the river Dikrong. It is 6.5 km from the National Highway 52-A and 25 km from Itanagar, the State capital. The campus is linked with the National Highway by the Dikrong bridge.

The teaching and research programmes of the University are designed with a view to play a positive role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the State. The University offers Undergraduate, Post-graduate, M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes. The Department of Education also offers the B.Ed. programme.

There are fifteen colleges affiliated to the University. The University has been extending educational facilities to students from the neighbouring states, particularly Assam. The strength of students in different departments of the University and in affiliated colleges has been steadily increasing.

The faculty members have been actively engaged in research activities with financial support from UGC and other funding agencies. Since inception, a number of proposals on research projects have been sanctioned by various funding agencies to the University. Various departments have organized numerous seminars, workshops and conferences. Many faculty members have participated in national and international conferences and seminars held within the country and abroad. Eminent scholars and distinguished personalities have visited the University and delivered lectures on various disciplines.

The academic year 2000-2001 was a year of consolidation for the University. The switch over from the annual to the semester system took off smoothly and the performance of the students registered a marked improvement. Various syllabi designed by Boards of Post-graduate Studies (BPGS) have been implemented. VSAT facility installed by the ERNET India, New Delhi under the UGC-Infonet program, provides Internet access.

In spite of infrastructural constraints, the University has been maintaining its academic excellence. The University has strictly adhered to the academic calendar, conducted the examinations and declared the results on time. The students from the University have found placements not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various institutions, industries and organizations. Many students have emerged successful in the National Eligibility Test (NET).

Since inception, the University has made significant progress in teaching, research, innovations in curriculum development and developing infrastructure.

About IDE

The formal system of higher education in our country is facing the problems of access, limitation of seats, lack of facilities and infrastructure. Academicians from various disciplines opine that it is learning which is more important and not the channel of education. The education through distance mode is an alternative mode of imparting instruction to overcome the problems of access, infrastructure and socio-economic barriers. This will meet the demand for qualitative higher education of millions of people who cannot get admission in the regular system and wish to pursue their education. It also helps interested employed and unemployed men and women to continue with their higher education. Distance education is a distinct approach to impart education to learners who remained away in the space and/or time from the teachers and teaching institutions on account of economic, social and other considerations. Our main aim is to provide higher education opportunities to those who are unable to join regular academic and vocational education programmes in the affiliated colleges of the University and make higher education reach to the doorsteps in rural and geographically remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh in particular and North-eastern part of India in general. In 2008, the Centre for Distance Education has been renamed as "Institute of Distance Education (IDE)."

Continuing the endeavor to expand the learning opportunities for distant learners, IDE has introduced Post Graduate Courses in 5 subjects (Education, English, Hindi, History and Political Science) from the Academic Session 2013-14.

The Institute of Distance Education is housed in the Physical Sciences Faculty Building (first floor) next to the University Library. The University campus is 6 kms from NERIST point on National Highway 52A. The University buses ply to NERIST point regularly.

Outstanding Features of Institute of Distance Education:

(i) At Par with Regular Mode

Eligibility requirements, curricular content, mode of examination and the award of degrees are on par with the colleges affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University and the Department(s) of the University.

(ii) Self-Instructional Study Material (SISM)

The students are provided SISM prepared by the Institute and approved by Distance Education Council (DEC), New Delhi. This will be provided at the time of admission at the IDE or its Study Centres. SISM is provided only in English except Hindi subject.

(iii) Contact and Counselling Programme (CCP)

The course curriculum of every programme involves counselling in the form of personal contact programme of duration of approximately 7-15 days. The CCP shall not be compulsory for BA. However for professional courses and MA the attendance in CCP will be mandatory.

(iv) Field Training and Project

For professional course(s) there shall be provision of field training and project writing in the concerned subject.

(v) Medium of Instruction and Examination

The medium of instruction and examination will be English for all the subjects except for those subjects where the learners will need to write in the respective languages.

(vi) Subject/Counselling Coordinators

For developing study material, the IDE appoints subject coordinators from within and outside the University. In order to run the PCCP effectively Counselling Coordinators are engaged from the Departments of the University, The Counselling-Coordinators do necessary coordination for involving resource persons in contact and counselling programme and assignment evaluation. The learners can also contact them for clarifying their difficulties in then respective subjects.

SYLLABI-BOOK MAPPING TABLE

Syllabi

UNIT I: Explanation from starred Texts

UNIT II:

Charles Dickens- *Great Expectation*

UNIT III: Poetry II

Writing Official and Unofficial Letters

UNIT IV: Grammar and Usage I

Phrases, Idioms, Synonyms, Antonyms, Interchange of Part of Speech

UNIT V: Grammar and Usage II

Diminutive, Substation of a group of words

UNIT I & UNIT II Fiction

1.0. Novel and its Rise

RISE OF NOVEL IN 18TH CENTURY....

Introduction

As a literary genre, Novel emerged in the beginning of the eighteenth century. It can be said that the Industrial Revolution created a desire among the people to read books or any other literature related to their everyday experiences. Therefore –

The novel developed as a piece of prose fiction that presents real life character.

The glorious work of Richardson and Fielding was followed by the two other major novelists of the eighteenth century named Smollett and Sterne. Thus, the group of the first four novelists – Richardson, Smollett, Fielding and Sterne are called the *Four Wheels of the Novel*.

Definition of Novel

Though novel is a genre which resists exact definition, here are some definitions of the novel:

According to *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*,
Novel is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length in which characters and actions are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity.

D. H. Lawrence says,
The novel is a one bright book of life.

According to *The Encyclopedia Britannica*,
Novel is a sustained story which is not historically true but might very easily be so.

Origin of Novel

The English name novel is derived from the Italian *novella* – meaning *a little new thing*. The novella was a kind of anecdote found in 14th century. Since the Victorian period, the novel, replacing poetry and drama has become the most important part of English literature.

Factors that Contributed in The Rise of The Novel

Various reasons can be adduced for the rise and popularity of the novel in the eighteenth century. Here are some factors that contributed in the Rise of the 18th Century Novel:

1. The Decline of Drama

The Rise of the Novel in the early stage of eighteenth century was greatly affected by the Decline of Drama. Drama was very famous in Elizabethan Age. As the Licensing Act passed in 1737, Fielding and some others attacked Walpole. The situation raised as something like –

Cut out the hearts of Drama.

Now, Drama which had helped to satisfy the natural human desire for reading or stories was about to moribund. Something had to take the place of drama. Thus, to fill up the gap, dramatists turned into novelists and the Novel raised in replace of the Drama. The writings of the dramatists in the modern period got its root established by that time and appeared as Novel.

2. Rise of The Periodical Essays

The seeds of Novel of the characters was laid in the Periodical essays of Addison and Steele during this age. The foundation of the Novel of characters was laid in the pages of Spectator. In Spectator, we also found the origin of the social and domestic novels. Because these papers were widely read, it cultivated the taste of public for the future rise of the novel.

3. Ready Material

We have to bear in mind that the growth of the Novel was not sudden but it had already been done by numerous writers. Realism and Romance, Morality and Adventure had been introduced earlier by Defoe and Bunyan, Mrs. Aphra Behn and Swift. Before Fielding and Richardson started, the seeds of the Novel had already been sown. These pioneers had only to take the last step in the process of its growth.

4. Rise of Common People

The rise of the Novel was also result of the democratic movement in the eighteenth century England. Like tragedy, romance made an appeal to the rich and left the common people untouchable. The romanticism of Defoe remained popular for sometime but it didn't last long because it was far away from the ordinary social world. During this age, a consciousness of the rights of the people began to come in the public mind and the novelists took advantages of this situation; and so they began to write something that deals with the life of common people. The common people found that the novels deal with their own life and problems, so they started to support the novels of realism that were presented by Henry Fielding. As time passed, the democratic feelings of the people and the democratic support of the government made novel popular in the country. The rise of the common people with the democratic consciousness gave a great support to the development of the Novel.

5. No Limitation for Classicism

The novel was a sign that the literature was beginning to outgrow the cramping limitations of classicism. It was impossible in the epic and drama where the men should reject altogether the authority of antiquity. In Fielding's case, there was some discussion of technical questions from the classicist standpoint and classical learning; but in general, the novel offered a fresh field in which the modern writers were able to work independently.

6. Rise of The Realism

Novel is a literary form that is related to the common life. The spirit of realism and romantic features like enthusiasm, passion and imaginations that declined in the period were the main characteristics of the 18th century. The English novel of the eighteenth century has all these characteristics. As novel is related to the common life, the names that were used in the eighteenth century novel were common names of the people. Like, Henry Fielding named his main character Joseph Andrews to make it easily. There's a clear description of the character which added realism in the novel. Thus, realism greatly contributed in the rise of the Novel.

Examples of 18th Century Novels

Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones* are some of the early English novels. Here are several more examples of the eighteenth century novels:

- Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*
- Sterne's *Yorick*
- Thomas More's *Utopia*
- Richardson's *Pamela*
- Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*

Conclusion

In *The Rise of the Novel*, Ian Watt suggested that the novel first came into being in the early 18th century. The development of the novel was encouraged by innovations in printing. Henry James remarks –

1.1. Charles Dickens and the Victorian Age

The Victorian Age unfolds the coexistence of two characters. On the one hand, it bears the symbol of progress, prosperity, and peace. And, on the other hand, it identifies the baffling complexity of various social forces. Importantly, eminent novelist Charles Dickens' novels depict both the features of society. In reality, he is the Victorian Age society portrayer.

The Victorian Age, for sure, was a period with an emerging sense of adoration, love, and patriotism among the people. Also, British Empire hit the zenith of prosperity under the leadership of Queen Victoria during this time. Even Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* opened up newborn vistas of philosophy at this time. And the result was the people felt confident about uninterrupted, ceaseless and steady progress. However, this age's dazzling affluence and prosperous side also entailed various evils. Importantly, Dickens mentioned them uniquely in his writings.

Dickens' novels mirror the Victorian Age: Charles Dickens appeared as a novelist representing his period, i.e., the Victorian Age. As a writer, his words uncovered a purpose. He was very keen to focus on many evils of his time. His novels mirror his age. They even unfold all the contradictions and complexity of society. The notable contemporary sweeping changes, progress, and problems are evident in his writings.

In a true sense, the age of Dickens witnessed various factors. The period stood identifying as the age of faith as well as doubt. It was a time when both virtue and deceit dominated society. The words of A.C. Ward represent this truth. His significant remark, "It was an age.....of prosperity and splendour and squalor," proves the complexity and contradiction in society. But the most noteworthy part is the age was "solemn," though it produced a large number of "humourous writers" that no other single period delivered. In short, the era was indeed progressive yet unripe in emotion.

So it is evident why Dickens' writings mirror the Victorian Age. His words unveiled several actual incidents that, in reality, acted to give the final shape of the era. Reflecting the real life of the poor Londoners through novels is one such act.

The sufferings of the poor in London through Dickens' novels: Every novel of Charles Dickens is a masterpiece depicting the life of London of his time. The writer's description mainly reflects the life of the poor people in London during his day. *David Copperfield* is one such novel that acts as a "social chronicler." The novel describes the lower class and the condition of the inhabitants of this class. In a word, the British novelist narrates the social conditions prevailing in contemporary society through this famous novel.

The author's words in *David Copperfield* portray the actual social order of the Victorian era. Dickens wrote down the social state that he witnessed around him. One undeniable thing is a big chunk of Dickens' characters are typical Londoners. Moreover, they belong to a specific class and possess faults and virtues.

Some critics never hesitate to criticize both the Dickens' characters and the Victorian Age. They have always considered the period an era consisting of vast ugliness. In addition, most of the time, they have often pinpointed the bitter relation between the poor and the rich. They have even marked the dark side of social law and religion.

The sufferings of the poor during the Victorian era are vivid enough in the novelist's works. They depict

how the poor got no choice but to live in unhealthy and unhygienic environs. Simultaneously the author tried to refine and convert all the said bitterness into a source of joy. He did it by exploring various meaningful possibilities in day-to-day homey life. He acted as the Victorian Age society portrayer and tried to seek wonders in the dull life of London's ordinary people.

Another vital reflection is visible in the British novelist's works. The famous writer minutely narrates the sufferings of the children in his time.

The sorrow and pains of the children in the Victorian era: Charles Dickens was well aware of the sorrow and pains of the poor children in the London society of his time. The little ones were forced to attend a thirteen-hour work schedule every day. In his famous novel *David Copperfield* the British novelist attempted to arouse the conscience of the Victorian Age. Yes, he tried to awaken the moral sense that remained blind and insensible to the severe ill-treatment received by the poorer children.

His significant humour and pathos unfold these social problems of the age. The most unfortunate thing in the Victorian era was the harsh schooling of the poor little ones. During this time, schools got shaped by private owners. And so, the emergence of private academies was widespread. Undoubtedly, the motto behind running all these academies was to earn profit.

Students, mainly the poorer ones, received ill-treatment in these private schools. They got beaten ruthlessly. However, Dickens didn't portray the pessimistic or dark sides only. In *David Copperfield*, he also mentioned the existence of a good school which was, in truth, rare in those days in England.

1.2. Literature in Victorian Age

Historical Context

The Victorian Era, spanning the duration of Queen Victoria's rule from 1837 – 1901, is characterized by the expanding horizons of education and literacy, as well as by an increased desire of the people to question religion and politics. During this time period, publications such as Marx and Engels' Communist Manifesto in 1848 and Darwin's Origin of the Species in 1859, served as catalysts for political and religious controversy. These new notions of government and science signaled a turn from the idealism of the Romantics to a more empirical worldview. The Victorian era also marks a time of great economic growth, technological discovery, and industrialization. Many writers reacted to both the wonders of this Industrial Revolution as well as to the troubles of an industrialized society. Also during the Victorian Era, the influence of literature became more prevalent in society as reading evolved into a social pastime indicated by the increasing literacy rate. At the era's beginning in 1837, it is estimated that approximately half of the adult male population was literate to a certain degree. Because of the new practices, compulsory education and technological advances in printing resulting in widely available reading materials, standard literacy was more or less universal by the end of the century (Greenblatt 993).

Victorian Literature

As reading became less of a privilege of the wealthy and more of a pastime of the common British citizen, publications such as periodicals flourished. These magazines provided monthly installments of news articles, satiric essays, poetry and fiction. These serial publications enabled many authors to easily share their work with the public and helped launch the careers of prominent Victorian writers such as Dickens, Eliot, Tennyson, and the Brownings (Norton). Because literature was an accessible and pervasive part of Victorian society, studying it is crucial in understanding the attitudes and concerns of the people who lived during this era. Much of the writing during this time was a reaction to the rapidly changing notions of science, morality, and society. Victorian writers also reacted to the writings of previous generations. George Landow argues that the Victorians wanted to escape what they saw as 'the excessive subjectivity of the Romantics' while at the same time keeping their "individuality, originality, intensity, and, above all, sincerity." Thus Victorian literature tries to combine the use of Romantic subjectivity (~1798-1830) with the objectivity of the Augustans (~1660-1798). Landow argues that the birth of the dramatic monologue and autobiographical fiction were used to bring personal experiences to literature without the author seeming self-obsessed.

THE VICTORIAN NOVEL

The novel could be considered one facet of the Victorians' literary exploration. It continued to develop and eventually became the prominent medium for written expression. In the framework of the novel, realism emerged as a notable literary characteristic of the period and showcased this combination of Romantic subjectivity and Augustan objectivity. In her work *Adam Bede*, George Eliot writes, "let us have men ready to give the loving pains of a life to the faithful representing of commonplace things." As

exemplified in this quotation, Eliot, and other realist writers like Dickens, held the belief that the purpose of literature should be to accurately mirror the world and portray realistic scenes with complex, life-like characters. This movement illustrates the return to Augustan objectivity through the use of empiricism and observation of the surrounding world. (Landow) Yet, the influence of the Romantic movement on Victorian writers is seen through the *style* in which they present these observations.

VICTORIAN POETRY

While the novel was the dominant form of literature during the Victorian era, poets continued to experiment with style and methods of story-telling in their poems. Examples of this experimentation include long narrative poems (epic poems) and the dramatic monologue as seen primarily in the writing of Robert Browning. Alfred Lord Tennyson, England's poet laureate for a majority of the Victorian age, exemplified poetry of this era with his use of the dramatic monologue, a more lyrical style and a poetic voice that can be described as "picturesque" due to his use of description and mood-creating imagery. Two other minor movements, the Pre-Raphaelites (1848-1860) and the Aestheticism and Decadence movement (1880-1900), developed in relation to one another during the Victorian era. The first developed when the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood wanted to create art for the modern age by practicing techniques of precision and simplicity in their written work. The movement of Aestheticism and Decadence began as a reaction to the Pre-Raphaelites. The members of this second movement believe, unlike the Pre-Raphaelites, that literature and poetry should be more reflective. This movement influenced poets such as Yeats and Hopkins. (Landow).

Charles Dickens Biography

Charles Dickens's legacy lives on in his literature, influencing countless writers, including Margaret Atwood and Salman Rushdie. Stories like *A Christmas Carol* remain popular thanks to numerous TV, film, and theatrical adaptations. Dickens often drew inspiration from his own life:

1. Early life: Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in 1812 in Portsmouth, a coastal town in England. When he was 10, the Dickens family moved to Camden Town, a working-class suburb of London. At 12, Dickens dropped out of school to work at a boot-blackening factory when his father, who previously held a well-paying job at the Navy pay office, went to debtors' prison. Dickens looked back at this time as his "loss of innocence."
2. First literary job: At 15, Dickens landed a job as an office boy, which led to a freelance court reporting job. Within a few years, he was working for two major London newspapers. Dickens began submitting humorous sketches to local newspapers under the pseudonym Boz. These he compiled into his first book, *Sketches by Boz*, in 1836, shortly after he married his first wife, Catherine Hogarth, with whom he fathered ten children.
3. Midlife and literary career: Dickens published his first novel, *Oliver Twist*, in 1838. (It first appeared in serialized installments in his self-published periodical *Bentley's Miscellany*.) After *Oliver Twist*, Dickens published fifteen novels and several novellas over the course of his life, a few of which also appeared in monthly or weekly installments. He edited several magazines, including *Household Words*, and founded his own, *All The Year Round*. In 1842, Dickens toured the United States, giving public readings and speaking against slavery. He wrote the travelogue *American Notes* based on this experience. Dickens began a relationship with actress Ellen Ternan in 1857.
4. Death and legacy: Dickens died at his country home, Gad's Hill Place near Chatham in Kent, of a stroke in 1870, at the age of 58. His grave is in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. Today, fans of Dickens's work celebrate his legacy at the annual Rochester Dickens Festival.

Elements of Charles Dickens' Literary Style

Dickens' style and preferred themes earned his work the term "Dickensian," which refers to a depiction of Victorian society with caricatured characters symbolizing wealth extremes. Here are a few elements of Dickens' writing style.

1. Victorian-era London settings: Dickens is perhaps best known for his descriptions of socially stratified London during the Industrial Revolution. In Dickens' London, the sky is blocked out with gunmetal grey clouds, stovepipe chimneys spew fumes into the air, and every stone and brick building is blanketed in black soot.
2. Caricatured main characters: Dickens characters often have physical attributes that reflect something about their personality. Greed and wealth take the form of obese characters, while

strict characters have overly straight backs and square faces. This is also reflected in their fanciful and tongue-twisting names, like Martin Chuzzlewit, Nicholas Nickleby, and Barnaby Rudge.

3. 3. Satirical tone: Dickens' novels like *Our Mutual Friend*, *The Pickwick Papers*, and *Hard Times* use satire to enhance the social commentary in his work. Exaggerating the injustices inflicted on his characters to satirical heights highlights his social criticism of the workhouse system, industrialization, the courts, and income inequality.
4. 4. Word repetition: Dickens liked to repeat words or sentences for rhythmic effect. One of the most famous examples of anaphora (repetition of words at the beginning of successive clauses) is the opening of *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."
5. 5. Loss of innocence: Many of Dickens' protagonists go through coming-of-age journeys involving some of the harsher realities of the world. *Oliver Twist*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, and *Nicholas Nickleby* are all examples of main characters' young lives being shaken up by a traumatic experience, usually related to the characters' poverty or change in social standing.
6. 6. Frequent use of cliffhangers: Because Dickens published many of his novels in serial form before publishing an entire story in book form, his chapters often end with what we call a cliffhanger, a moment of potential drama cut short, to entice readers back for the next chapter.

1.2. *Great Expectations*' Plot and Overview

Part I

Pip is an orphan living on the Kent marshes with his abusive sister and her husband, Joe Gargery, the village blacksmith. While exploring in the churchyard near the tombstones of his parents, Pip is accosted by an escaped convict. The convict scares Pip into stealing food for him, as well as a metal file to saw off the convict's leg iron. Returning with these the next morning, Pip discovers a second escaped convict, an enemy of the first one. Shortly afterward, both convicts are recaptured while fighting each other.

Pip's pompous Uncle Pumblechook arranges for Pip to go to the house of a wealthy reclusive woman, Miss Havisham, to play with her adopted daughter, Estella. The house is a strange nightmare-world. Miss Havisham's fiancé jilted her on her wedding day and she still wears her old wedding gown, although she's now elderly and wheel-chair-bound. The house has been left as it was on her wedding day and even the old wedding cake is still on the table. Estella is beautiful but haughty and tells Pip that he is coarse and common. Pip is immediately attracted to Estella in spite of how she and Miss Havisham treat him. Although the visits are emotionally painful and demeaning, Pip continues to go there for several months to play with Estella and to wheel Miss Havisham around. He also meets her toady relatives who want her money and hate Pip. Pip does earn a kiss from Estella when he beats one of the relatives, the Pale Young Gentleman, in a fistfight. Pip tries to better himself to win Estella's admiration by working harder with his friend, Biddy, at night school. Biddy's grandmother runs the night school.

After a number of months, Miss Havisham pays for Pip's blacksmithing apprenticeship with Joe. Pip had looked forward to that for years, but now that he has seen "genteel" life, he views the forge as a death sentence. However, he hides his feelings from Joe and performs his duties. During this time, he encounters a strange man at the Jolly Bargemen, a local pub. The man has the file that Pip stole for the convict years before. The man gives Pip two one-pound notes. Pip continues to visit Miss Havisham on his birthday and on one of these occasions, his leaving work early instigates a fistfight between Joe and Joe's assistant, Dolge Orlick. Orlick resents Pip and hates Pip's abusive sister. On his way home from that visit, Pip finds out his sister was almost murdered and is now mentally crippled. Biddy comes to live with them to help out. Pip is attracted to her even though she is not educated and polished like Estella.

One evening, a powerful London lawyer, Mr. Jaggers, visits Pip and Joe and informs them that Pip has "great expectations." Pip is overjoyed and assumes the windfall is from Miss Havisham, who wants to prepare him for Estella. He gets a new suit of clothes and is amazed at how differently he is treated by Mr. Trabb, the tailor, and by Uncle Pumblechook. When Pip gets Trabb's shop boy in trouble for not treating Pip with respect, he realizes how money changes things. He has a conversation with Biddy and asks her to work on "improving" Joe. Pip accuses her of being jealous of him when she suggests Joe does not need improving. By the end of the week, Pip is on his way to London to become a gentleman.

Part II

In London, Pip meets with Jaggers and his clerk, Mr. Wemmick. Wemmick brings Pip to the apartment

of Herbert Pocket, who, Pip discovers, is the Pale Young Gentleman he fought at Miss Havisham's. Pip is to study with Herbert's father, Mr. Matthew Pocket, to learn how to be a gentleman. Pip and Herbert become good friends and Herbert nicknames Pip, Handel. Pip spends part of his time with Herbert and part of his time with the Pocket family. Also living at the Pocket's family home are two other "gentlemen students," Startop and Bentley Drummle. Drummle and Pip do not get along, especially later, when Drummle becomes involved with Estella.

Pip is embarrassed when Joe visits him in London with a message from Miss Havisham and cannot wait for Joe to leave. When Pip returns home to see Miss Havisham, he avoids Joe's forge. Miss Havisham informs Pip he is to accompany Estella to London where she will live with a wealthy society woman. Pip is convinced Miss Havisham intends Estella for him. In London, he spends his time visiting with Estella, spending too much money with Herbert, and joining a group of useless rich men called the Finches. He also makes friends with Jaggers' clerk, Wemmick, and realizes that the stiff legal clerk has a different, kinder personality at home. Pip also realizes that he is harming Herbert financially with their debts, and with Wemmick's help, secretly arranges to set Herbert up in business with a merchant named Clarriker. During this time, Pip's sister dies. He returns for her funeral and is remorseful over his abandonment of Joe and Bidley. He promises he will visit more often and is angry when Bidley implies that she does not believe him.

On a stormy evening back in London, Pip's world changes dramatically with the arrival of a ragged stranger whom Pip realizes is the convict from the marshes years ago. The convict, whose name is Magwitch, had been sent to Australia and was to never return to England under penalty of death. The convict made a fortune in Australia and has risked death to return and tell Pip that he is the source of Pip's expectations. Pip is disgusted and devastated, something Magwitch, in his happiness to see his "gentleman," does not notice. Pip now knows that Miss Havisham has not been preparing him for Estella, and that with his money coming from a convict he can never have Estella. He also realizes he deserted Joe for a convict's money.

Part III

Magwitch explains to Pip that he has come to give him his full inheritance as thanks for his help on the marshes years before. He tells Pip about the other convict, a man named Compeyson. Pip later learns from Herbert that Compeyson was the same man who broke Miss Havisham's heart. Pip decides he will take no more of Magwitch's money. However, he feels responsible for the danger the man is in and will find a way to get him safely out of the country.

Pip is crushed to hear that Bentley Drummle is to marry Estella. Pip visits with her and Miss Havisham and pleads with her not to do this. He professes his deep love, which she cannot fathom, and tells her that he would be happy if she married another as long as it was not Drummle. During this conversation, Estella and Miss Havisham have an argument that shows she cannot love Miss Havisham, either. Miss Havisham realizes the depth of the damage she has done and is heartbroken.

Returning to London, Pip learns from Wemmick that Compeyson is watching Magwitch. Herbert and Pip hide Magwitch and devise an escape plan. Pip also gets an anonymous note to come to the marshes where someone has information about Magwitch. He returns home and visits Miss Havisham before going to the marshes. She begs his forgiveness and agrees to Pip's request to help fund Herbert Pocket's new business. Pip starts to leave then returns to see Miss Havisham's dress on fire. He saves her but she is very ill afterward. He goes to the marshes, where he is captured by Orlick, who intends to kill him. Rescue comes from Herbert and Startop who had followed him from London. Trabb's shop boy led them to the marshes.

They return to London and carry out their escape plan with Magwitch, but Compeyson has informed the authorities and they are caught. Compeyson and Magwitch struggle and fall into the river. Compeyson drowns and Magwitch is hurt, then imprisoned and sentenced to die. Pip by now has figured out Magwitch is Estella's father. He visits and cares for Magwitch until the man dies in prison. Afterward, Pip attends Wemmick's wedding. Pip also gets very sick and is himself arrested for not paying his debts. Joe comes and nurses Pip back to health and tells him Miss Havisham has died, leaving a large amount of money to Mr. Matthew Pocket. Before returning to his forge, Joe also pays off Pip's debt. Pip goes home, intending to make amends with Joe and marry Bidley. He arrives just in time to celebrate Joe and Bidley's wedding. Pip leaves shortly afterward for eleven years in Cairo, working with Herbert in his business. When he returns, he visits with Joe and Bidley and meets their son, little Pip. He also meets with Estella. She is a widow now after years in an abusive marriage to Drummle. She and Pip part, but the implication is that this time they will be together.

About *Great Expectations*

Despite any literary controversy over Dickens' style, most critics agree that *Great Expectations* is his best book. The story, while set in the early part of the 1800s, was written in 1860 during the Victorian era that began with the coronation of Queen Victoria in 1837 and lasted until her death in 1901. Virtues emphasized at that time included integrity, respectability, a sense of public duty, and maintaining a close-knit family.

The period of the novel was a time of change. England was expanding worldwide and becoming a wealthy world power. The economy was changing from a mainly agricultural one to an industrial and trade-based one. With increasing technological changes came clashes with religion, and increasing social problems. Machines were making factories more productive, yet raw sewage spilled into London streets — people lived in terrible conditions as slums lined the banks of the Thames. Children as young as five were being forced to work twelve and thirteen hours a day at a poverty wage.

While the world became more democratic, so, too, did literature. Unlike the romantic literature that preceded it — literature that focused on the glories of the upper classes — Victorian literature focused on the masses. The people wanted characters, relationships, and social concerns that mattered to them, and they had the economic power to demand it. Novels were published in magazines in serial form — in ten or twenty weekly or monthly installments — and if readers didn't care for a particular story, circulation dropped and the magazine lost money. Consequently, magazines worked hard to keep their readers interested, in suspense, and buying the next copy. Dickens published *Great Expectations* in weekly installments that ran from December 1860 until August 1861.

In keeping with the desire to please readers, Dickens, on the advice of a novelist friend, changed the ending of the story from a sad one to a happy one. The different ending has been a point of controversy for readers and literary critics ever since. George Bernard Shaw felt the happy ending was an "outrage," especially because "apart from this the story is the most perfect of Dickens' works." Controversy aside, *Great Expectations* — with the happy ending — was a major success for both Dickens and his magazine.

In July, 1861, *Great Expectations* was published in book form in three separate volumes, corresponding to the three stages of Pip's growth in the novel. It was published as a single-volume book in November 1862. (The chapter summaries and commentaries later in this Note give both the modern chapter numbers and the original volume and chapter numbers from the three-volume-set. The first volume had nineteen chapters while the second and third had twenty chapters each.)

The story is written as a first-person story, and most consider it a retrospective one — Pip, as an older man, telling his life's story and commenting on it along the way. However, the narrator's voice sometimes gets confusing, almost as if the younger Pip is talking. John Lucas, in his book, *The Melancholy Man: A Study of Dickens' Novels*, says: "There are essentially two points of view in *Great Expectations*. One is that of Pip who lives through the novel, the other belongs to the Pip who narrates it. And the second point of view is the authoritative one, commenting on, correcting, judging the earlier self (or selves)." Whether one or two Pips, the choice of first person is an effective one. It has a confidential, confessional quality, as if Pip is talking from his heart while sitting and drinking coffee with the reader.

The locations of the story are in London or on the marshes around Kent, near the junction of the Rivers Thames and Medway. These are areas that Dickens knew well. His happiest childhood years were spent in Chatham on the eastern coast. Nearby were marshes, the prison hulks, and convicts. Also, he lived in London for years and knew the back streets, markets, and places like Newgate Prison.

The sense of location in the novel is one of its strongest points. Dickens' imagery when describing area and place is powerful — as George Orwell suggests, his "power of evoking visual images . . . has probably never been equaled. When Dickens has once described something you see it for the rest of your life."

The story has a three-part structure similar to that of a play, which is fitting, given that Dickens was involved in the theater for many years, writing, producing, and acting in plays. The first part of the story covers Pip's childhood from the time he meets the convict in the graveyard until the time he receives his expectations; the second examines his young manhood, learning to become a gentleman and living extravagantly in London; and finally, the third part visits Pip in his adulthood, from the time he tries to help Magwitch escape until his return from Egypt at the end of the story. The three parts in this story have a moral implication as well as time and space implications. Pip's childhood is viewed as a time of innocence and goodness while living in the Garden of Eden. His young manhood is the fall from grace when he sins and must seek an end to his suffering, and his adulthood is seen as a time of redemption when he achieves forgiveness and inner peace.

The plot is complicated and twisting, full of surprises and complexities (part of the requirement of

keeping magazine audiences interested from week-to-week). Dickens includes a tremendous number of and detail for his characters, and although some critical reviewers have suggested that his characters were one-dimensional, out of control, and therefore not true representations of real people, reviewer Thomas Connolly suggests that Dickens was at a high point for character development in *Great Expectations*: "Dickens had learned how to make his characters complex so that they function economically both in the basic plot and in the thematic presentation."

Other elements to be aware of include Dickens' use of humor and satire, irony, repetition to create tension, and the use of inanimate objects to convey emotion.

You can find multitudes of interpretations as to what the novel "means;" however, most reviewers place the major themes of the novel into three broad categories: moral, psychological, and social.

Moral themes include good versus evil, moral redemption from sin, wealth and its equal power to help or corrupt, personal responsibility, and the awareness and acceptance of consequences from one's choices. Psychological themes, explored through Pip's personal and moral growth, include abandonment, guilt, shame, desire, secrecy, gratitude, ambition, and obsession/emotional manipulation versus real love. Social themes that show up in the book include class structure and social rules, snobbery, child exploitation, the corruption and problems of the educational and legal systems, the need for prison reform, religious attitudes of the time, the effect of the increasing trade and industrialization on people's lives, and the Victorian work ethic (or lack thereof). With regard to work, it is interesting that the story takes place in people's "off time." Rarely is anyone ever shown working, especially the gentlemen of the story. Herbert seems to be able to take a lot of time off from work to do things with Pip. George Orwell attributes this to Dickens' Victorian view of life. A gentlemen, in Dickens' view, should strive to get a lot of money, then settle down in an ivy-covered house with servants and children all around. The desire is complete idleness except for the activities of sitting around the fire talking to friends, eating, or making more children. Cultural trends aside, the turbulence, abandonment, and insecurity of his childhood years no doubt made the theme of family hearth and home a strong one for Dickens.

An additional feature of *Great Expectations* is its autobiographical nature. H.M. Daleski, in his book on Dickens, notes that *Great Expectations* is "one of Dickens' most personal novels . . . it bears the marks of his own cravings to an unusual degree." Before writing the novel Dickens reread his autobiographical story, *David Copperfield*. While one object of this rereading was to avoid duplication in his new novel, Dickens was also reviewing his life at age forty-eight. In *David Copperfield*, Dickens focused on his own self-pity for his humble beginnings and his pride in rising above the shoe-polish factory to fame and wealth. *Great Expectations*, however, has a more mature analysis of life. Pip and Dickens undergo a humbling self-analysis that results in the wisdom that fortune does not equal personal happiness.

There are some differences between Dickens and Pip, though. While Pip never earns his fortune, Dickens did. Dickens worked intensely throughout his life while Pip rather has an aversion to working too hard. Also, Dickens loved his work, working passionately in his writing and theatrical pursuits. Pip seems fairly unemotional when describing his work with Herbert's firm — to him, it is a means to survive — and he lacks passion for anything in the novel except Estella, and even with her, his emotions are repressed, rather the antithesis of Dickens' and his fire for life.

Character List

Marsh Area Group

Pip (Philip Pirrip, Handel) The narrator of the story who tells of his rise to wealth, his desertion of his true friends for that wealth and a chance with Estella, and his humbling by his own arrogance. At the end of the story he has learned wealth does not bring happiness.

Joe Gargery The kind blacksmith married to Pip's sister who is the moral reference point for most characters in the story. In spite of Pip's snobbery, Joe remains faithful and loving to him and is always there in Pip's hour of need.

Mrs. Joe Gargery (Georgiana M'Ria) Pip's abusive older sister who constantly reminds Pip of all she has done for him, especially "raising him up by hand." She is attacked by Orlick and later dies.

Biddy The young girl from Pip's night classes who helps with Pip's sister after the attack and later marries Joe. She is Pip's early confidant and understands him well enough to see through him.

Uncle Pumblechook Joe's pompous, self-important uncle who arranges for Pip to visit Miss Havisham's house and who arrogantly assumes himself to be the reason for Pip's good fortune.

Dolge Orlick Joe's assistant in the forge, who is responsible for the attack on Mrs. Joe and who later tries to kill Pip.

Mr. Wopsle (Mr. Waldengarver) A clerk in Pip's church who wants to be a clergyman but gives up and goes to London to be an actor.

Mr. Trabb The local tailor and undertaker.

Mr. Trabb's Boy Mr. Trabb's assistant, who ridicules Pip about his new station in life, but later helps rescue him from Orlick.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubble Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Gargery. He is the town wheelwright, a person who builds and repairs wagon wheels.

Character Analysis Pip

Pip has low self-esteem. He is not valued and does not value himself. He feels guilty for his very existence, thanks to his sister who constantly reminds him how she has suffered because of him. Other relatives and friends reinforce his feelings by telling him how grateful he should be. His only positive in life is Joe, and Pip looks forward to being his apprentice in the forge. Miss Havisham and Estella, however, destroy that dream when they teach him to be ashamed of his coarse and common life. Their influence, coupled with his low self-worth and his sister's messages about wealth and security, fuel his desires, ambitions, and snobbery.

Pip, abused by his sister, is a passive personality who fears the stronger emotions in him. He rarely shows power, passion, or self-determination, reacting instead to those around him and living his life as a dreamer. The fantasy world of Satis House feeds that part of him. Shut from the light of day, Miss Havisham lives in her strange world. Pip responds to this and preserves that world by keeping the light of day — questions his sister and Pumblechook ask — from destroying its special fairy-tale quality. That world is something that is his, and it holds his only passion in life, the fairy-tale princess he desires, Estella. In that world there are things he has never seen — beauty, wealth, polish, power — and they dazzle him. They become his quest in life and he will give up everything — Joe, the forge, his own good conscience and behavior — to get money and Estella.

In Pip, the reader sees several of the themes of the novel: obsession, desire, greed, guilt, ambition, wealth, and good and evil. Pip leaves his state of childish innocence and "grace" and descends into sin on his quest to gain his desires. He wants it all and he wants no costs. Yet Dickens does not make him totally bad, instead leaving the truly good qualities asleep underneath. They surface as his guilt over his snobbery to Joe and Biddy, over dragging Herbert into debt, and about trading Joe for a convict's money. Even during his worst moments, Pip manages to show some good, as, for example, when he sets Herbert up in business. His road back to grace starts when Magwitch reveals himself as the source of Pip's rise in social stature. The irony that the source of his gentility is from a creature more socially detestable than the uneducated Joe is not lost on Pip. It is the slap in the face that brings Pip out of the fantasy world he has been living in. His dream has suddenly been seen in the light of day, and now he knows what it has cost him.

The concepts of self-responsibility and the cost for choices made make up his lessons in the last part of the book. Nothing in life comes free and one must accept the consequences of the choices made. Dickens generously gives Pip four "father figures" in the book to model this for him. Joe makes his choice to stay with Mrs. Joe and show her more love than his mother had, fully accepting the cost of enduring her abuse. Jaggers chooses control and an emotionless life and accepts the cost of loneliness and alienation. Wemmick knows the only way to support himself, his father, and their home is to endure an emotionless job that could drive him crazy if he let it; he accepts responsibility by keeping his work and home life separate and knowingly accepts and pays the price for his actions. Magwitch knows the cost for seeing his "dear boy" is death, makes his choice to go to England anyway, and accepts the outcome. Pip learns from all of them that there are no free rides, that wealth does not guarantee freedom from consequences, and in the end he has to take responsibility for whatever he chooses.

Joe Gargery

He is the closest thing in the story to a totally good character. Hard working, honorable, loyal, and fair, he is equally comfortable showing both his raw, physical strength and his gentle, patient, emotional side. He is compassionate to the convict who stole his food, as well as to the memory of his alcoholic, abusive father. He recognizes Mrs. Joe's strengths, remembers her better times, and wants to protect her from the suffering that his mother endured with his father. In him, there is deep intuitive wisdom, inner peace and acceptance, dignity, and a basic sense of what is right and what will cause heartache. Even when treated poorly by Pip, he shows unconditional love and comes to Pip's aid when needed. His function in the story is to love Pip, be a father to him, and show him the path to dignified manhood.

Dickens keeps him from being a sickeningly sweet person by giving him the flaws of no education, no polish, and failing to better protect Pip from his sister when Pip was a child. Yet, to his credit, Joe himself expresses his realization of that and does what he exemplifies best. He takes responsibility for himself and consciously chooses his actions. He is not ruled by passion or illusion.

Magwitch

Magwitch, as a young man, is what Joe would have been if Joe had been ruled by his passions and reacted to life instead of taking responsibility for his choices. Magwitch is another father figure for Pip, showing both what happens with bad choices and how you can rise above them. During his rough childhood, he kept reacting to life, getting into ever worsening criminal activities. Yet removed from England and placed in a new environment where he is given the chance to become what he was always capable of, he rises to the occasion. The hidden good has a chance to come out. He remembers the generosity of a small boy, feeling the bond of powerlessness and victimization they both shared as convict and child. He recommits his life, this time a conscious choice, to do good. He works hard, so that Pip can live easy.

His flaw is in wanting to return to see and show off his creation. His generosity is great, but it is not perfect and not done just for Pip's benefit. Magwitch wants revenge on society and uses Pip to do it. He wants to create a wonderful gentleman to show society they were wrong about him. He wants to feel proud of what he created. This is his downfall because to return and glory in this is to risk his life. However, he is a true man and accepts that risk knowingly, never playing the victim. He wants to see Pip, will pay with his life if he has to, and is at peace with that. He loves Pip with a simple heart, and, having had a chance to return to the basic tenderness that was always within him, dies with dignity and peace.

Mrs. Joe

Abusive and self-important, Mrs. Joe appears to be total evil; however, some of her behavior is understandable. When she was twenty, before this story begins, she was left alone with a helpless infant brother who was not even weaned. By the time the reader is introduced to her, she has already buried two parents and five brothers and has no husband, and hence, no means to support herself. Joe solves that by marrying her. However, because of all the loss in her life early on, she fears abandonment and wants security, so her focus is survival. She seeks it through power and wealth and unconsciously communicates these values to Pip. Joe alludes to her fear of abandonment when he notes that she does not want Joe to better himself. That would take away her power in handling the business end of things in their relationship, and may even give Joe the opportunity to leave her.

Miss Havisham

She is one of the most strange and grotesque characters in the story, the "wicked witch" of the fairy tale. In adopting Estella, she seeks to protect the girl from the hurts she herself has suffered. That intention, however, degrades into her training Estella to love no one and exact revenge from all men. Miss Havisham was proud, beautiful, passionate, and headstrong, things Compeyson used against her. Deeply hurt, reeling from the loss of control she felt by the betrayal, and determined to regain both control and self-image, Miss Havisham chooses her lifestyle. She wields her money as her weapon of power and trains her daughter to succeed where she has failed. But it backfires. Estella ends up not only unable to love men, but unable to love Miss Havisham. Miss Havisham's creation is her downfall, and Pip is her mirror. When she sees the depth of Pip's feelings for Estella, Miss Havisham sees herself with Compeyson and remembers what she once was. Her redemption is in seeing her sins and showing her remorse. She does the only thing she can do — takes responsibility for her actions. She asks Pip's forgiveness, helps Herbert Pocket, and leaves a fortune to Herbert's

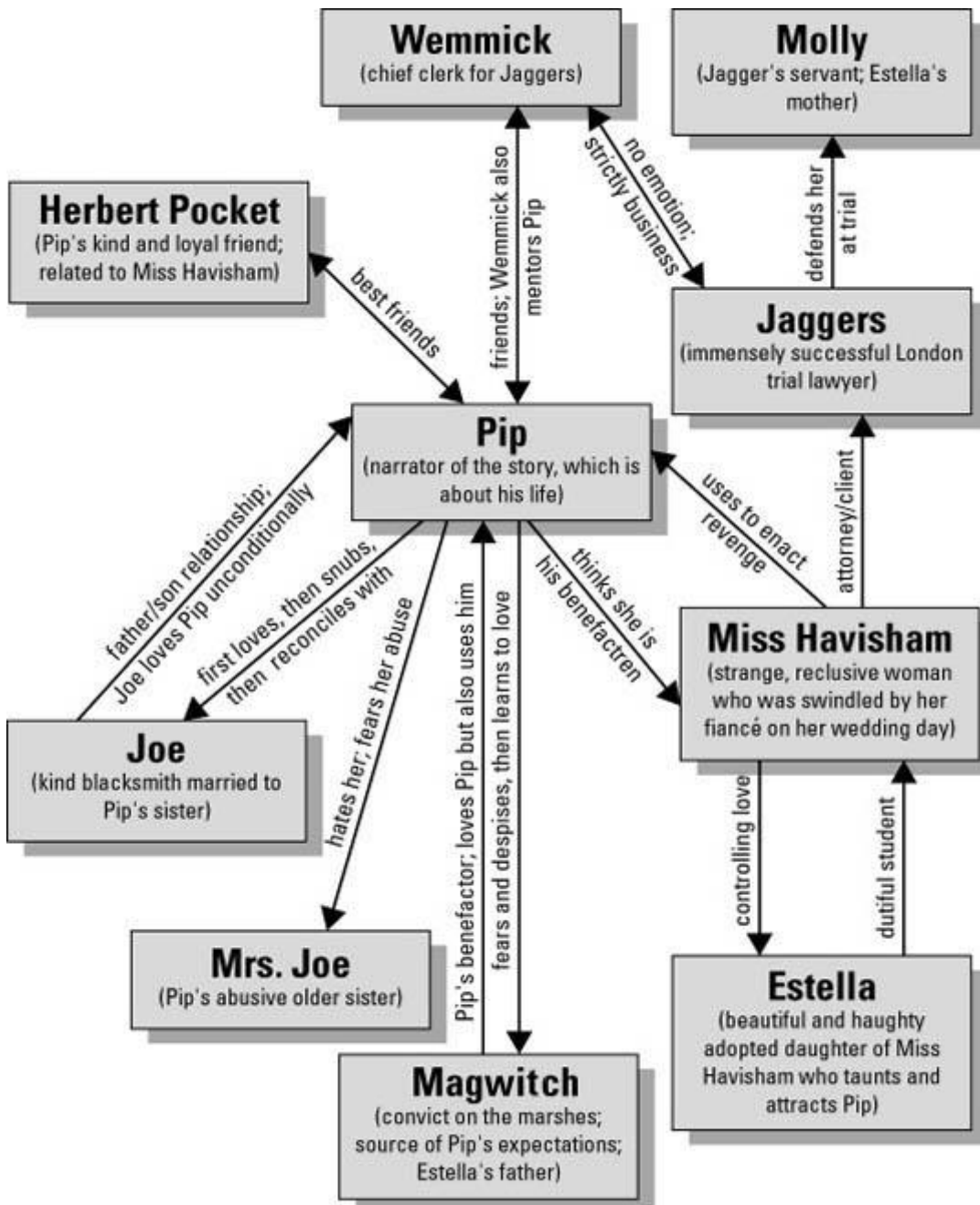
Estella

Like Pip, Estella is an orphan and a victim. Both had surrogate mothers who thought they were doing the right things. Both are used by their surrogate parents — Estella by Miss Havisham and Pip by Magwitch — to extract revenge from society. Both share a somewhat passive approach to life that she alludes to when she says they are both unable to follow their own free path but must do the bidding of another. She is an honest character, not evil, and is what she was trained to be. She cannot love Pip or Miss Havisham because she was not taught love, and she says so quite honestly. There is no manipulation, only frankness. She also shows a sort of loyalty to Pip when she tells him she will toy with all men, but him. There is an acknowledgement that she knows Pip loves her, she cannot love him, and therefore she will not be with a man who will realize she has nothing to give him. Yet underneath this rigid unemotional surface is the passion and emotional fury of her parents, Molly and Magwitch. The one time she responds to Pip and lets him kiss her is when he displays rare aggression and forcefulness in beating the Pale Young Gentleman. There is, deep within her, something that responds to emotional fury. That is the part that is changed and softened by the abuse Drummle hands her in their marriage.

Jagers and Wemmick

Jaggers and Wemmick are two more father figures who teach Pip how to be a man. Jaggers is a hard-working, self-made man, who is direct, true to fact, and a good man in his own way. Seeing the horrors of prison, and the abuse of children by the legal system, he takes in Molly and finds a home for Estella. But he seeks his security in control and power, and chooses to wash off both emotions and people instead of embracing them. He pays a cost in his life, knows it, and accepts it.

Wemmick is the transition character: a little of Joe and of Jaggers. He is true to fact in the office, and true to emotion at home. With Pip, he risks mixing his two worlds in London, something he would not do before, but he reaffirms the status quo of separation when he savages the client in the office for crying, and when he tells Pip at his wedding that Jaggers should not know of this. Wemmick is pragmatic about "portable property" because he cannot afford to be any other way. He is not rich and has a father and house to support. But he is also caring, industrious, creative, has an emotional side — even gets married. He embraces life, but draws a line to survive in his dual world.



Character Map

The Use of the Serial Form

To present-day readers, the idea of reading a novel in weekly or monthly installments may seem strange. Why buy twenty issues of a magazine when the paperback costs a few dollars and you get the whole story at once? But as one writer in 1828 noted, "No Englishman in the middle class of life *buys* a book." At that time, one complete novel might be published in three or four volumes at a cost of roughly three to four hundred dollars for a complete novel. Given this, anyone who wanted to read a book and who

was not rich joined a lending library or bought the weekly issues of a magazine. Thus novels, once only the domain of the rich, became a cheap luxury for the masses.

This method of publishing affected how the novels were actually written. Authors' choices of plot, character, and style were often a direct results of the requirements of publishing in serial form. (In fact, some of the flaws of which Dickens is accused by modern-day reviewers are actually constraints of this form.)

The first consideration in planning a book for this form was the number of installments to use to tell the story. Each installment needed to be about the same length, roughly thirty-two pages of fifty lines per page. The emotional intensity and action had to be about equal in each, as well. After a break in the story of a week or month, the pressing question was: Would the reader come back and buy the next issue? Hence each installment had to be a "mini-story" or "episode" in itself, each with its own cliffhanger ending. To achieve so many cliffhangers, plots had to be large and complex with a lot of action.

The same applied to the story's characters. They were often odd and given unusual and sometimes almost "excessive" characteristics so the readers could remember them from week-to-week or month-to-month. In *Great Expectations*, Dickens used character tags, such as Jaggers biting his finger or Wemmick having a "post-office mouth." While these traits or tags were a necessity because of this fragmented publishing method, this much repetition in a story published as a solid book can drive the reader crazy.

The writing for serials had to be rapid because of tight deadlines. Often the author was still plotting action or figuring out the ending as he went along, and half the book had already been published. It was a shoot-from-the-hip method in many respects because it also took into account readers' reactions to the story. If something was not working and circulation dropped, the author could change a character's response or add another cliffhanger to beef up the audience's interest. The action also had to be fast because every word counted. Space in the magazines was money. In contrast to a one-thousand-page novel, *Great Expectations*, done in serial form, was considered downright short. The Victorians wanted a lot for their money and they expected a sweeping story with lots of twists and turns. Charles Dickens gave them exactly that and was very successful with his reading public.

The major conflict of *Great Expectations* revolves around Pip's ambitious desire to reinvent himself and rise to a higher social class. His desire for social progress stems from a desire to be worthy of Estella's love: "She's more beautiful than anybody ever was, and I admire her dreadfully, and I want to be a gentleman on her account." The plot gets underway when Pip is invited to go to Satis House, and first encounters Estella and Miss Havisham. The inciting action, however, has actually been earlier when Pip had a seemingly random encounter with an escaped convict; neither he nor the reader will know for a long time that this encounter will actually determine the course of his life. The rising action progresses as Pip becomes increasingly dissatisfied with the prospect of living a simple life as a country blacksmith. As he explains, "I never shall or can be comfortable ... unless I can lead a very different sort of life from the life I lead now."

Pip receives news that he is going to be financially supported by an anonymous benefactor and moves to London, where he becomes more refined and sophisticated while also becoming extravagant and self-absorbed. After some years, Pip is astonished to discover that his benefactor is actually Magwitch the convict. This discovery intensifies the conflict around Pip's desire to be perceived as a gentleman and be loved by Estella, since he is now tainted by an association with a criminal. The rising conflict forces Pip to declare his love to Estella, since he is planning to leave England in order to cover up his secret. He tells her that "you are part of my existence, part of myself," but she explains that she plans to marry another man. This conversation resolves part of the conflict, making it clear to Pip that Estella is incapable of loving him.

The conflict surrounding Pip's shame at his social background and desire to be a gentleman continues as he struggles to protect Magwitch and get him to safety. Along the way, Pip realizes that Magwitch is Estella's father. This discovery transforms Pip's understanding of social position and criminality. Up to this point, Pip has considered Estella and the criminal underworld Magwitch represents as oppositional to one another, but now Pip understands that Estella and Magwitch have always been interconnected. At the novel's climax, Pip confides to a dying Magwitch that his lost child "is living now. She is a lady and very beautiful. And I love her!" By showing kindness to a criminal and describing Estella as a both a lady and the daughter of a convict, Pip shows that he no longer thinks about social position in a black or white way. The conflict resolves with Pip letting go of his social aspirations in order to focus on

reconciling with the characters who have been loyal to him all along, paying off his debts, and earning an honest living.

'Great Expectations' as a Bildungsroman Novel: Pip's Moral Regeneration

Great Expectations can be said as a study of human psychological development and a *Bildungsroman* novel. This is Dickens's distinctive style plot that while developing plot structure he, at the same times, externalizes the inner workings in Pip's psyche. To serve the purpose, his adoption of first person narration, of course, plays a good part both in developing plot and facilitating the readers to have a close glimpse of the central figure in the novel, Pip. In one sense, this grand and huge novel, voluminous can be called a work dealing with the moral regeneration of Pip.

The outliving may be like this- Pip gets a chance from an unknown benefactor (Magwitch) to be a gentleman, his original moral strength and values are dimmed/ blurred/ clouded coming in contact with a London higher class embedded in money, show, pride and revenge and false gentility. However, Pip being a snob at this time can not detect the dark side of this luxurious social class and keeps himself aloof from his real well-wishers and childhood friends like Joe, Bidley, and pays respect and homage to people like Miss Havisham, Jagger. Gradually through the novelist's dramatic techniques of suspense, humor, dialogue and denouement, the knots of the incidents are opened and Pip recognizes his real benefactor (Magwitch – a criminal and convict) and thus is cursed of his snobbish behavior. His moral regeneration starts. The clouds which covered his original goodness pass away and once again he enables to see man as man recognizing the proper worth of basic humanity. At last he retains his original power of morality and returns to his real friends (Joe, Bidley, and his real home, the forge).

From his early boyhood Pip was good, gentle, and morally strong. He does not show any sign of villainy and notoriety at his boyhood. His conscience always keeps awake under the proper guidance of Joe and Bidley. He develops a strong moral sense and good values. However whenever he is forced to commit an evil deed or to tell a lie; he suffers a mental disturbance. In the marsh scene, he is terrified at Magwitch's ill treatment and he is forced to commit crimes: to steal a file and some food from his sister's house. Under Magwitch's threat he promises that he must do so. But after stealing food and a file, he becomes restless and uneasy. He can not get rid of his guilt feelings. He thinks that he has betrayed Joe and his sister. However, he retains his basic humanity and shows pity for an outcast by giving the file and some food and drink to him. Though Pip provided the demanded things to the convict under Magwitch's force, Pip shows deep compassion for him. This is quite obvious when in the course of their conversation while Magwitch takes the food to the marsh, Pip confesses:

"Pitying his desolation, and watching him as he gradually settled down upon the pie, I made bold to say, 'I am glad you enjoy it.'
'Did you speak?'
'I said I was glad you enjoyed it.'"

Such a humble life Pip leads in the village with his great friend Joe. He is apprenticed to Joe, the blacksmith. Though he is unhappy to live with his cruel sister, he certainly had consolation as he got love and affection from Joe Gargery.

In fact, Pip's confrontation with Miss Havisham and Estella and their circle is the turning point in the development of his personality. So, far he had been unconscious about class distinction – he was indifferent that he belonged to a "commoner's class". Going to the Satis House he feels for the first time in his life his inferiority complex which was absent in his simple innocent life style. The occasional visits to the Satis House, playing cards with Stella, her scorn of his coarse hands and unpolished manners made him utterly uneasy and disturbed. He lost mental peace and calm. In one hand, he becomes fascinated with Estella's physical charm and beauty; on the other hand, he is hurt by her scorn and continual torture concerning his belonging lower social class. One seems to be at his horns of dilemma. After a long period of mental torture and frustration, he comes to the point that he must be a gentleman to win his scornful beloved.

In fact, Estella enkindled a fire in his heart to ascend to the social ladder to become a gentleman. Afterwards, Pip's meeting with Magwitch on the marshes and his help to the latter with food and file is

the turning point in Pip's rising as a gentleman. Magwitch later on works on his project of making a gentleman of Pip through his lawyer Mr. Jaggers.

Thus, Pip has been taken to London to be brought up as a perfect London gentleman according to the wish of the convict Magwitch, his benefactor. But, Pip is kept to be in the dark concerning the supposed identity of his benefactor. However, the young man is, to some extent, feels relaxed and ease thinking that Miss Havisham is his real benefactor and Estella is supposed to be married to him. Gradually, he starts his lessons and other necessary instruction with Mr. Herbert Pocket at London. Very soon he acquires the outward appearance of a "gentleman" along with his growing snobbery. He has undergone a lot of change in his outlook. Previously, he was a commoner who became the butt of extreme scorn and criticism by Estella. Now, he thinks that he has developed a gentlemanly attitude and etiquette. He begins to feel a kind of uneasiness and incongruity for his past life with Joe and his sister at the smithy. His snobbery is made to be exposed on the occasion of Joe's London tour.

When Biddy, by writing a letter, informs Pip that Joe is coming at London, Pip cannot be happy: rather a growing discomfort seizes him. Inwardly, he does not hope Joe's coming to meet him at London where Pip lives with a sophisticated society. Pip's snobbishness rises to such an extent that he once thinks that if it would be possible, he could bid Joe away offering him some money. When Joe meets him, Pip shows a cold and disinterested attitude to him. He feels a sense embarrassment for Joe's clumsy behavior, loose coat, and old hat. However, Joe clearly recognizes Pip's treatment of him, and decides not to settle down in his room for the night. Similarly, Pip's snobbery is obvious when he, on visiting his home town, does not settle down on the smithy with Joe, rather takes a room at an inn. He always feels that if he took shelter at the forge, his newly developed gentlemanliness would be hurt. Thus, Pip betrays his childhood friend Joe and Biddy and his original morality is dammed for the time being. He terms Joe as stupid and common. He has grown into a false man with coming in contact with money and fortune.

Pip holds on to the dream of having Estella until he finds out that she is marrying Drummle. At this moment all of his hopes for Estella are rushed. His self-deception about gentleman and his hope of getting Estella lead to another Pip. He now begins to realize what a horrible man he has become, and that he has shunned all who really care for him. His utterance: "I wish I had never left the forge" shows his moral regeneration.

Pip also begins to spend too much money and goes into debt even with his secret benefactor giving him money. Through the novelist's dramatic techniques of suspense, humor, dialogue and denouement the knots of the incidents are opened and Pip recognizes his real benefactor- Magwitch a criminal and convict and all his dreams are shattered. He cannot believe a criminal had been supplying him with money all this time.

His moral regeneration starts in this stage. The clouds which covered his original goodness pass away and once again he enables to see man as man recognizing the proper worth of basic humanity. Pip tries to repair all his relationships with people he mistreated and loved. Pip finds Herbert a good job even if it means Pip using some of his own money. Pip also tries to help Magwitch escape. Although Magwitch does not escape, Pip makes Magwitch happy before he dies telling him that he has a daughter and that he is in love with her. Pip also helps Miss Havisham discover the error of her ways. She is happy Pip has shown her this and would like to give Pip some money to help him with his debts. Pip does not take the offer and knows that he himself must work hard to pay off his debts. Pip then goes to his home in the marshes. Joe pays off all his debts and their relationship is now repaired. Pip also meets Little Pip, the symbol of rebirth. Pip fixed all his problems and was never again faced with them because he decided to live with the people he loved, Joe and Biddy, his family.

Pip's behavior as a gentleman has caused him to hurt the people who care about him most. Once he has learned these lessons and matures into the man.

UNIT III Letter Writing

2.1. Introduction to letter writing

Letter writing is a mode of correspondence between two parties. Through letter, we can get or give information, share each other's feelings and keep our relationship with each other intact. It is not always possible to meet each other living in far away places. Hence, letters help us to correspond and to know each other.

Letter writing is an art, but it is also technical. The art of letter writing depends on the situation and its manipulation. A good letter writer has the ability to manipulate the situation and accordingly presents his feelings and emotions in his/her letter to make it worthwhile. The writing must be neat and decent. The letter must be well-spaced and well-balanced with reasonably wide and straight margins. Secondly, the language of a letter must be intelligible. Formal and high sounding words are to be guarded against.

Regarding the methodical part of a letter, one has to follow certain steps. Every letter writer has to place heading, date, address, salutation, body, complementary clause and signature step by step, which is illustrated in a chart below. From heading to signature, all the steps are required essentially to be written in a letter.

Thus, letter writing depends on all these three things: art, technique, and method. All of them together can make the letter a better one. Again, letters can be formal and informal according to their nature and purpose, which are discussed later.

Format of a Letter

Place

Date

Addressee's Address

Salutation

Body

Complimentary close

Signature

Types of Letters

There are two types of letters: formal and informal

Formal letters

Formal letters, by nature, are mechanically suited to the precise needs of the writer. This kind of letter is generally used in official correspondences. In all the cases, these letters are required to be simple, direct, succinct, and comprehensive.

Drafting of this kind of letters must be direct and logical. Unnecessary exposure of sentiments and emotions is not allowed to be expressed in such letters.

The subject of a formal letter is often stated in a heading, immediately following the salutation. The opening paragraph should contain the other party's previous communication by date and reference number. Again, the opening paragraph is used to win the recipient's interest. Short and clear sentences

can help the understanding of the reader.

Essentials of Formal Letters

Each distinct point needs a separate paragraph. Through this kind of letter, the writer should always try to promote cordial relations with the intended recipient. Occasionally, the correspondent may find it essential to catalogue certain items or points.

The concluding paragraph, like the first paragraph, is important. The correspondent should always try to conclude the letter in such a way that it must hit the right point to obtain immediate action.

Lastly, formal letters should end with an expression like ‘yours sincerely’, which is a standard and polite closure. The full name and address of the correspondent should be given at the end.

The word ‘Enclosures’ or in short ‘ENC.’ should be placed below the name of the correspondent, in the left hand margin. If the correspondent sends some of the copies of the letter to some other persons, it should be mentioned by him/her at the end as ‘Copy to’.

A formal letter may be a letter of enquiry or complaint, or request. Certain examples of these kinds of letters are illustrated below to help you improve the standard of letter writing.

Mechanics of writing a formal letter

In composing a formal letter, you have to follow certain steps:

- (i) It is always good for you to prepare an outline. You should try to jot down the points you wish to make.
- (ii) In your draft, try to focus on the central idea, highlight the important facts and then use the accurate words, phrases, suitable for your letter.
- (iii) Try to check the grammatical errors and spelling mistakes. In addition to these things, the layout of the formal letter should be good and attractive to influence the recipient.

Model Examples

Place
Date
Reference
Recipient's name
Designation
Address
Subject heading
Salutation
Main body
Complimentary Close

Author's signature

Enclosure

01. A letter to the Himalayan Publishers placing order to send a few books for library.

**Rajiv Gandhi University Library
3rd November 2005**

Mr. A. Ghosh,
Manager,
Himalayan Publishers
Sumya Nagar,
Shillong, Meghalaya

Sub: Supply of Books
Dear Sir,

We, from the Library of Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, want to order the books listed in the enclosures for our library.

We expect you to send them to our address given below urgently along with a catalogue prepared by your publishing house.

Expecting an immediate response,

Yours sincerely,

N. Choudhury

Chief Librarian,

Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh

Enclosures:

List of books

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Reply to above

Place.....

Sub: Supply of books

Date.....

Dear Sir,

Thanks for your letter dated..... We have the pleasure to inform you that we can supply some of the books required by you.

We are sending to you under separate cover a copy of our latest trade catalogue, which gives further details of each of these items. We are able to allow you 10% discount excluding the postal charges.

We are hopeful that our terms and conditions will be acceptable to your library and shall have the pleasure in executing the order.

Yours sincerely,

A. Ghosh

For Himalayan Publishers

Encl- List of books and their prices

03. Enquiry for sewing machines

Das & Das Dealer

Date.....

Mr. A.K. Ray
Manager,
Rose Mary Machineries Ltd.
Sorojini Nagar,
New Delhi

Sub: Enquiry for sewing machines

Dear Sir,

We are glad to inform you that we want 12 sewing machines from your company within a month.

We require the sewing machines to be lock-stick and it must be flexible enough to be used as a

hand-machine or fitted on a treadle stand.

On comparison of price-lists, we find your prices higher than some of the other companies. So, it depends on the discount you allow us to have on purchasing these machines. Please do your best in this matter.

An early reply will oblige us.

Yours sincerely,

Manager,
Das & Das Dealer
Naharlagun

Reply to above letter

Place.....

Date:.....

Mr. A.K. Ghosh,
Manager,
Das & Das Dealer,
Naharlagun

Sub: Purchase of sewing machines

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your enquiry of 5th February. And we are glad to inform you that we have the required number of sewing machines at our disposal. The price is Rs. 1000/- on 13 per cent discount and free delivery. This price includes treadle stand and ornamental cover, and all accessories.

As compared to the other products of machines, our products have better working facilities. The various improvements which we have introduced in our new machines are described in our catalogue. Our machine has the flexible treadle stand for the convenience of shifting from one place to another. We have studied enough to bring such improvements so as to make them perfectly workable. We hope you understand our position and compare it with those of other companies.

We would deliver early on receipt of order.

Yours sincerely,

Encl- As above

Mr. A.K. Ray,
Manager,
Rosemary Machineries
Sarojini Nagar,
New Delhi

05. A complaint to railway authorities regarding damaged goods

Barapani Book Wholesale Agency
(Printed Letter Head)

Date.....

Mr. A Roy
Manager,
North East Railways,
Guwahati.

Sub: Complaint regarding the damage of goods.

Dear Sir,

We regret to point out that we received from you yesterday five parcels of damaged printed books for which we signed as 'received damaged'. The goods are here awaiting your inspection.

We have claimed a compensation of Rs. 3000/- only. Please do the needful in this regard and grant us the above mentioned compensation soon.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

Mr. A Ghosh
Manager,
Barapani Book Agency,
Pan Bazar,
Guwahati

06. Complaint regarding defective goods

Mr. Ananda Nath
Manager,
Eureka Electronics Ltd,
Guwahati.

Sub: - Complaint regarding defective goods.

Date.....

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the prompt execution of our Order No. U/450, dated.....

We regret to inform you that your consignment of goods of the 26th July has not been at all satisfactory. The goods sent by your company do not appear to be high priced goods. So, possibly, it may be a little difficult for their sale in the market.

However, we hope, it will not occur again. For the good of business, we are returning the defective goods as mentioned below and would appreciate if you send better ones as early as possible.

Please give this matter immediate attention.

Yours sincerely,
Name
Manager,
Octave Audio Systems Ltd.
Itanagar, AP

07.

Letter of Request

Opening a new branch

Date....

To

Mr. Nabam Son
General Manager,
State Bank of India,
Guwahati.

Sub - Request to open a new branch.

Dear Sir,

We, the inhabitants of Doimukh town, request your honour to open a new branch of your bank in our town, for the service of our locality and people. For your information, though our town has been declared a sub-divisional headquarters for a year, we do not have any branch of your bank. Doimukh, as a town, has been developing very fast and monetary transactions are good here.

We sincerely want a branch of your bank as it is the largest bank of our country and it provides different facilities like ATM, etc.

We would be glad to get your consent and be ready to render all possible help and cooperation in this regard.

Yours truly,

The inhabitants of Doimukh

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

08.

From a tenant, requesting for time to pay rent

Sub: Request for some time to pay the rent

Date:.....

Dear Sir,

I have been staying in your apartment for the last 4 years. I am correct, I think, when I say that I have never delayed in paying your rent during my stay here. But for the last three months, I am going through a phase of financial problems due to irregularity in getting my salary. Besides, I have spent all my savings for my wife's treatment.

I would appreciate it, if you kindly consider my problem sympathetically. I hope you will wait for another three months to help me clear my dues at the time of the release of salaries.

Yours sincerely,

S.K. Jain

09.

Letter of request for appointment as a distributor

R.K. Singh,
Managing Director,
Eureka Electronics Ltd.

Date.....

Sub: Request for appointment as a distributor

Dear Sir,

In response to the advertisement published in 'The Times of India', dated..... I would like to request you to appoint me as a distributor of your products for the North East Region. For the first time, you are looking for marketing in this region. Though you have market in other parts of India, I am sure you want your products to be sold in this region also.

I am ready to accept the terms and conditions of your company. I know the quality of your products too.

I hope you will consider me to be the right person for the job and your early response in this regard is welcome.

Encl. As above

Yours sincerely,

S.K. Das
Paltan Bazar,
Guwahati

10.

Application for the post of Junior Clerk

Date.....

Place.....

.To

The Director of Education,
Itanagar,
Arunachal Pradesh.

Sub: Appointment for the post of Junior Clerk

Dear Sir,

With reference to your advertisement in 'The Arunachal Times' dated 13th December, I offer myself as a candidate for the post.

I passed my degree with honours in History this year. I know typing and have a speed of 50 w.p.m. Besides being computer literate, I have the experience of working as an accountant in a private firm in Guwahati, and I am continuing in this job till date.

I enclose herewith all my certificates in duplicate for your consideration and scrutiny.

Anticipating your invitation for the interview,

Yours faithfully,

Name &
Address

Enclosure- Certificates

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

11. Application for a Technical Post

Place....

Date.....

To

The Director,
Indian Renewable Energy Development
Agency Limited,
Indian Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road,
New Delhi.

Sub: Appointment for the post of Engineer.

Dear Sir,

In response to your advertisement for the above position published in the "Employment News", March 2004, I am enclosing my application for your consideration.

I have a first class degree in Mechanical Engineering from the NERIST, Arunachal Pradesh. During my final year, I have undergone industrial training in the IREDA project. In all my projects and papers, I have always exhibited my research interest in environmental technology.

For your information and consideration, I enclose my certificates and papers in duplicate. Hope you to give me a call for the interview.

Yours faithfully,

(Name)

Enclosure: Certificates and Research papers in duplicate

Check Your Progress-III

1. You are a dealer of “Decent foot-wear” company. Write a letter to the company to enquire about the availability of quality hand-made shoes for your dealer’s shop.
2. Suppose, you are a whole-sale agent. Yours goods were sent by the company by railways and they were missed by chance. Write a letter to the Station Master for your missing goods.

Informal letters/Personal Letters

Introduction to Informal Letters

Informal letters/Personal letters communicate the personal feelings and emotion of the letter-writer. Try to be clear enough in your view-point. Feelings and emotions are required to be exposed emphatically in order to make the letter convincing enough for the reader. These letters are as good as private conversation. Hence, they can be written in contracted forms and colloquial language.

Essentials of an Informal Letter

Personal letters can be written to family members, relatives, friends, lovers, and other known members of one’s society. These can be in the form of invitation to someone. While writing a personal letter, the writer has to be careful and calculative enough to gauge the feelings and sentiments of the receiver on the basis of his relationship with him. Hence, in different contexts of social relationships, a personal letter varies from one to another. In this unit, we shall give you examples of informal letters like letters of congratulation, invitation, condolence, etc.

Mechanics of Informal Letter Writing

In informal letters, the address should be according to the relationship of the sender with the receiver. In the first paragraph the sender has to express his regards along with the purpose of writing the letter. In the second paragraph, he must convey the subject matter. In the third paragraph, he has to conclude with his expression of relationship with the receiver and his near and dear ones. Finally, it must end with the correct address of the receiver.

Format of an Informal letter

We may look at the following format to understand where we should present which of the required details:

Place.....

Date

Salutation

Term of address

Body

Conclusion

Complimentary close

(Signature)

Name

Address

Some examples of general personal letters

01. Letter to a friend asking for a loan

Dear Sonam,

You may be surprised to get this kind of letter from me. For the first time, I am writing to you for a loan. As I have no other option, I wanted to take your help immediately.

Perhaps you do not know, my father retired from service three months ago and then he suffered from a heart attack fifteen days back. But, as you know, we have to do the form fill-up for the coming examination. At this crucial moment, I don't have the courage to ask for money to any member of my acquaintance except you. All of them have been already exhausted financially. So I thought you to be the right person to help me at this crucial point of time. Actually, it is against my temperament to ask for a loan to anybody. Please, don't take it otherwise and try to send at least Rs. 2000/- for the said purpose.

Well, how do you manage with your preparations? Tender my regards to your elders and love to the younger ones.

Hope you would not mind this little trouble caused to you.

Yours ever,

Dorjee

Address

02. Letter from a father to his son advising him to study well

Itanagar

Date 27/03/05

Dear Munna,

Glad to receive your letter. You have sought my advice and encouragement for your progress in studies. In fact, it is also my duty to encourage you to do well in your studies as you have reminded me in your letter.

You must be busy in your preparation for the coming examination which is due after three months. I hope you have completed your revision by this time. If you have not done it, try to do within this gap of time. In case, your understanding is not clear regarding certain topics in different subjects, take the help of your teachers, tutors, and friends. In the meanwhile, cultivate the habit of writing. Writing practice will enable you to score marks as it makes one mature, time-bound, and perfect.

You know this is a competitive world. For your survival, you will have to carve out a niche for yourself by competing with others. Besides your textual studies, you have to know certain other things and improve your general awareness.

Hope, my sincere advice and suggestions will help you at this point of time. Do strengthen your confidence. Everything is fine here. All of us send our wishes. Hope you are in the best of your health and spirit.

Yours affectionately,

Father

Address

03. Letter from a brother to his sister regarding her marriage

Place: Banderdewa

Date.07/08/04

Dear Rosy,

I received your letter yesterday and was glad to know your 3rd semester result. I was also happy to know about your aim to appear for Indian Administrative Service Examination.

Possibly, you are best utilizing your time, energy and environment over there. Delhi University is one of the premier institutes of our country. So you may hope for your better future there. I think you are going to appear your final semester exam in the month of July. Then you may be free to come home.

However, after your education, our parents are eager to arrange your marriage. One of my friends, who is presently working as the Sub-Collector of our district, is interested to marry you. He has been informed about you. After you come here, he will come to see you. Father and mother have already selected him as a good choice. In my opinion also, he would be a perfect match for you. According to their suggestion, I am informing you to be mentally prepared for your marriage within this year.

I am fine here, though busy with my official schedules of duty. Our parents are fine. I have been in regular touch with them. Just make up your mind about the marriage.

Yours lovingly,

Dada

Address

Check Your Progress-IV

1. Write a letter to a teacher asking for his advice on your preparation for the examination.

Letter of Invitation

Generally 'letters of invitation' are written on definite occasions. So, in this type of letter, occasions with time and date are to be mentioned. These letters are brief. Sometimes readymade printed cards on different occasions are available.

Letters of congratulations are generally easy and pleasant to write. It is because in this type of letters, we share our joy with others by sending cheerful messages.

Hence, these two types of letters are easy to write, brief and occasion-related. These letters communicate happiness, best wishes and cooperation with each other.

Nothing is there to instruct. The only thing you should keep in mind is that it will have to begin with an address to a particular person and the letter-writer will have to clarify his purpose in short.

Certain examples have been illustrated for you.

01. Invitation letter to a wedding

Mrs and Mr. N. Das request the pleasure of your company at the marriage of their son 'Sandeep' with 'Swapna', daughter of Mrs. and Mr. S. Chaudhary of Bankera, at their residence, 50 Bahu Bazar Street, Calcutta on Monday 10th March, 2005 at 9.00 PM.

R.S.V.P

All Family members, Friends and Relatives.

With best compliments from

Mr. N. Das

02. Formal invitation to a dinner-dance

Mrs. and Mr. O.P. Thakur solicit your company for a dinner-dance programme arranged at 'Hotel Taj' on 10th May, at 8.30 PM.

Yours
O.P. Thakur &

Others

03. Invitation to a birthday party

Dear Mrs. & Mr. Mishra,

We shall be glad to receive you with your family on 10th May at 7.00 P.M. to join the birthday party of our son Arnab at our residence.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. & Mr. Sharma

04. Letter of congratulation on a wedding anniversary

Dear Mrs. & Mr. Verma,

We are pleased to get the information of your marriage anniversary.

Our best wishes for you. Hope you will be happier and wish you a long married life.

Cordially yours,

Signature & Name

05. Letter of congratulation on marriage

Date.....

Dear Ashok,

We are really thrilled to know about your marriage which is going to be held next month.

Best wishes for you. Hope you will live a very happy married life.

Affectionately yours,

Signature and Name

06 Letter of Condolence at the death of your friend's mother.

SEC-4/FL No/81

Itanagar

Date

Dear Sulekha,

I am really shocked to know about your mother's untimely death.

I had the opportunity to know her, when I stayed with you at your home. I remember how comfortable she made me feel.

I feel this must be a very difficult time for you and your father. If you face any problem, please, contact me soon.

Yours lovingly

Supria

07 Letter of apology for not attending a friend's marriage.

Place

Date

Dear Ratul,

I am extremely sorry, because I failed to attend your marriage ceremony, held on 7th April. Though, earlier I had promised you to be present there, I could not do so for my father's illness. As you know, he is an old man and he has his heart-problems for the last two years. On 6th April, suddenly, he had a stroke. We shifted him to the local hospital, where I had to be busy for two days. Now, he is recovering and we are hopeful about him.

If things go well, I hope, I will meet with you next week. Now, I am sure, you will understand my problem and forgive me for my absence there.

Yours

Vikas

Check Your Progress-V

1. You have got a letter from your friend about his visit to your place. Write a letter inviting him to visit you.
2. Write a letter to your friend's brother expressing your regret at the death of your friend.

4.4 Let us Sum Up

As envisaged in the Objectives and Introduction of this unit, we introduced you to the world of letter- and paragraph-writing. Through various citations, we tried to make you clear about the different modes of letter- and paragraph-writing. Formal letters verily differ from the informal letters. The tone and vocabulary, too, are different a lot. In paragraph writing, you were introduced to the narrative and descriptive mode of writing. Adequate care was taken to make you aware of the ways to tackle them. The importance of letter- and paragraph-writing is increasing a lot in the present context. In the fast changing world, the significance of communication matters a lot and, obviously, makes a lot of difference. This unit has been designed to promote your expertise in writing letters and paragraphs.

4.5 Key Words

Amplification	:	Increase in size and strength
Proverbs	:	Well-known saying that states a general truth or advice
Logical	:	Correctly reasoned
Comprehend	:	To understand fully
Simile	:	Comparison of one thing with another
Metaphor	:	Use of a word or phrase to indicate different from the literal meaning
Coherent	:	Clear, easy to understand
Contemporary relevance	:	Importance in the present time
Message	:	Information that a sender puts in a communication channel, in order to pass on to the receiver
Skill	:	Practised ability to perform a task like an expert
Sender	:	A person who puts out a message in a communication channel
Receiver	:	A person who takes the message from the communication channel
Formal	:	In accordance with rules, customs and conventions
Consignment	:	Goods sent to a person or place for sale
Claim for compensation	:	Claim to repair the loss in financial transactions
Catalogue	:	Detail information of different kinds of items of a particular variety of goods
Recipient	:	One, who receives something
Discount	:	Concession
Execution	:	Doing, carrying out the job in business
Marketing	:	Act of buying and selling according to market rules
Enclosures	:	The necessary documents attached with the letter
Crucial	:	Critical
Acquaintance	:	Connection; knowledge
Schedule	:	Timing
Solicit	:	To invite

4.6 Check Your Learning

1. Write a paragraph on the following:

- a) Friendship
- b) Crowd
- c) Pollution
- d) A Railway Accident
- e) A rolling stone gathers no moss.
- f) What can't be cured must be endured.
- g) One crowded hour of glorious life,
Is worth an age without a name.
- h) As you make your bed, so you must lie in it.
- (i) Time and tide waits for none.
- (j) To err is human.

2. Some questions on letter writing (formal):

- a) Write a letter to 'Eastern Dress Agency' to enquire about the availability of 100 pieces of coats for your shop.
- b) Write a letter to 'Decent Foot Wear Agency' to enquire about the availability of quality hand-made shoes for your shop.
- c) Write a letter to the 'Constructional Materials Firm' in Guwahati enquiring about certain items for constructional purposes.
- d) Write a letter to a Book Agency enquiring about the books that you require, and place an order for them.
- e) Enquire about the availability of 500 kg. of coffee through a letter to the 'Nescafe House', Calcutta and place an order for it.
- f) Write a letter complaining to the Railway Authorities for missing goods.
- g) Write a letter complaining about defective goods to a wholesaler.
- h) Write a letter to a business organisation complaining about the wrong goods sent to you.
- i) Write a letter to a leading company complaining of the inferior quality of certain goods.
- j) Write a letter to a business organisation complaining of the delay in sending goods.
- k) Write a letter to a club requesting payment of an overdue subscription.
- l) Write a letter to a Zonal Manager of any bank requesting him to open a bank in your area.
- m) Write an application to any government authority requesting them to look into certain problems of your locality.
- n) Write an application to B.D.O. requesting him to grant a tube-well to your locality.
- o) Write an application to the District Collector requesting him to look into the flood-related problems of your area.

3. Some questions on letter writing (informal):

- a) Write a letter to your friend inviting him to a dinner party.
- b) Write a letter to your parents inviting them to join a picnic party.
- c) Write a letter to your nephew inviting him to a children's party.
- d) Write a letter to your friend to join you for a garden party.
- e) Write a letter to your friend inviting him to attend the death anniversary of your father.
- f) Write a letter to your teacher asking for his advice on your preparation for the examination.
- g) Write a letter to your mother informing her about your physical and mental well-being.
- h) Write a letter to your father asking for money to pay your hostel dues.
- i) Write a letter to your daughter giving her suggestions to do well in studies.

- j) Write a letter to your friend wishing him a happy married life.

4.7 Suggested Readings

Taya, Zinkin : *Write Right*
IGNOU : *Communication Skills in English (Letters)*, New
Delhi.

4.8 Hints/Answers to Questions in Check Your Progress

Check Your Progress-I

Hints: 1.

(You can write the paragraph following the hints given below)

- i). Why does gold glitter?
- ii). What other metals glitter?
- iii). What does glittering refer to - face value or intrinsic value?
- iv). Is anything measured by its face value or intrinsic value?

Hints: 2.

(You can write the paragraph following the hints given below)

- i) What is will-power?
- ii) Do you think will-power is necessary for development?
- iii) Give some examples of great personalities with a strong will-power.
- iv) Do you believe that success is achieved by will-power?

These are the key points you may utilise to write the above paragraph.

Check Your Progress-II

Hints: 1.

- i) Write the name of your community.
- ii) What are the festivals, your community observes?
- iii) What is the most important festival and why is it relevant for your community?
- iv) How does your community observe it?

In this way you can make a paragraph of your own.

Hints: 2.

- i) What is discipline?
- ii) What is the need of maintaining discipline?
- iii) Why is discipline necessary?
- iv) Do you think discipline should be maintained at the personal/social/community level?

Answering these questions, you can manage to write a paragraph of your own.

Check Your Progress-III

Hints: 1

N. P. Sahu
Dealer
Naharlagun
Arunachal Pradesh
Date

To

The Managing Director,
Decent Foot-wear
73, Subash Bose Road,
Kolkata

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely
N. P. Sahu

Hints:

In the body part, put your required quality and amount of shoes to be available at your place.

Hints: 2.

Prabin Deka
Tezpur
Date

To

The Station Master
Railway Station, Tezpur

Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely
P. Deka

Hints:

In the body of this letter, place the receipt number, item number and its amount or packets. Along with that, you will have to attach the duplicate receipts for the convenience of the Station Master.

Check Your Progress-IV

Hint: 1.

Dear Sir,

Place

Date

You will be surprised to get this letter after a long time. Since my exam is coming nearer, I get nervous and I want your guidance and advice in this regard.

I am fine otherwise. Hope, you will send your valuable suggestions and advice as early as possible.

Yours loving student

Address

Hints:

In the empty space, write in detail your weakness and what you want to know from him in this regard.

Check Your Progress-V

Hint: 1.

Guwahati
26th Sept, 2005

Dear Rupesh,

I have just got to know that you are coming to Guwahati on some project work. I am really happy to know this.

.....
.....

With love

Bhuban

Address

Hints:

Try to express your interest to meet him. Then, give him full idea of your address and offer him to visit important spots of Guwahati during his short stay.

Hints: 2.

Naharlagun

May-06-2005

Dear Sourabh Bhai,

It was a great shock to know the death of your brother.

.....
.....

Yours

Rakesh

Address

Hints: Try to focus on your friendship with him and express your deep sorrow at his death.

UNIT IV GRAMMAR USAGE I

3.1. Phrases and Idioms

English idioms, proverbs, and expressions are an important part of everyday English. They come up all the time in both written and spoken English. Because idioms don't always make sense literally, you'll need to familiarize yourself with the meaning and usage of each idiom. That may seem like a lot of work, but learning idioms is fun, especially when you compare English idioms to the idioms in your own language.

Learning to use common idioms and expressions will make your English sound more native, so it's a good idea to master some of these expressions. The tables below are organized by how common the idioms are in American English. You can start by learning the very common English idioms, since these are the ones you'll encounter regularly watching American movies or TV, or visiting the United States. When you've mastered those, move on to rest. None of the idioms on this page are unusual or old fashioned, so you can be confident using any of them with native English speakers from all English-speaking countries.

These English idioms are extremely common in everyday conversation in the United States. You will hear them in movies and TV shows and can use them to make your English sound more like that of a native speaker.

Idiom	Meaning	Usage
A blessing in disguise	a good thing that seemed bad at first	as part of a sentence
A dime a dozen	Something common	as part of a sentence
Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable	as part of a sentence
Better late than never	Better to arrive late than not to come at all	by itself

Bite the bullet	To get something over with because it is inevitable	as part of a sentence
Break a leg	Good luck	by itself
Call it a day	Stop working on something	as part of a sentence
Cut somebody some slack	Don't be so critical	as part of a sentence
Cutting corners	Doing something poorly in order to save time or money	as part of a sentence
Easy does it	Slow down	by itself
Get out of hand	Get out of control	as part of a sentence
Get something out of your system	Do the thing you've been wanting to do so you can move on	as part of a sentence
Get your act	Work better or leave	by itself

together		
Give someone the benefit of the doubt	Trust what someone says	as part of a sentence
Go back to the drawing board	Start over	as part of a sentence
Hang in there	Don't give up	by itself
Hit the sack	Go to sleep	as part of a sentence
It's not rocket science	It's not complicated	by itself
Let someone off the hook	To not hold someone responsible for something	as part of a sentence
Make a long story short	Tell something briefly	as part of a sentence
Miss the boat	It's too late	as part of a sentence

No pain, no gain	You have to work for what you want	by itself
On the ball	Doing a good job	as part of a sentence
Pull someone's leg	To joke with someone	as part of a sentence
Pull yourself together	Calm down	by itself
So far so good	Things are going well so far	by itself
Speak of the devil	The person we were just talking about showed up!	by itself
That's the last straw	My patience has run out	by itself
The best of both worlds	An ideal situation	as part of a sentence
Time flies when you're having	You don't notice how long something lasts	by itself

fun	when it's fun	
To get bent out of shape	To get upset	as part of a sentence
To make matters worse	Make a problem worse	as part of a sentence
Under the weather	Sick	as part of a sentence
We'll cross that bridge when we come to it	Let's not talk about that problem right now	by itself
Wrap your head around something	Understand something complicated	as part of a sentence
You can say that again	That's true, I agree	by itself
Your guess is as good as mine	I have no idea	by itself

Common English idioms & expressions

These English idioms are used quite regularly in the United States. You may not hear them every day, but they will be very familiar to any native English speaker. You can be confident using any of them

when the context is appropriate.

Idiom	Meaning	Usage
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	What you have is worth more than what you might have later	by itself
A penny for your thoughts	Tell me what you're thinking	by itself
A penny saved is a penny earned	Money you save today you can spend later	by itself
A perfect storm	the worst possible situation	as part of a sentence
A picture is worth 1000 words	Better to show than tell	by itself
Actions speak louder than words	Believe what people do and not what they say	by itself
Add insult to injury	To make a bad situation worse	as part of a sentence

Barking up the wrong tree	To be mistaken, to be looking for solutions in the wrong place	as part of a sentence
Birds of a feather flock together	People who are alike are often friends (usually used negatively)	by itself
Bite off more than you can chew	Take on a project that you cannot finish	as part of a sentence
Break the ice	Make people feel more comfortable	as part of a sentence
By the skin of your teeth	Just barely	as part of a sentence
Comparing apples to oranges	Comparing two things that cannot be compared	as part of a sentence
Costs an arm and a leg	Very expensive	as part of a sentence
Do something at the drop of a hat	Do something without having planned beforehand	as part of a sentence

<p>Do unto others as you would have them do unto you</p>	<p>Treat people fairly. Also known as "The Golden Rule"</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Don't count your chickens before they hatch</p>	<p>Don't count on something good happening until it's happened.</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Don't cry over spilt milk</p>	<p>There's no reason to complain about something that can't be fixed</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Don't give up your day job</p>	<p>You're not very good at this</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Don't put all your eggs in one basket</p>	<p>What you're doing is too risky</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Every cloud has a silver lining</p>	<p>Good things come after bad things</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Get a taste of your own medicine</p>	<p>Get treated the way you've been treating others (negative)</p>	<p>as part of a sentence</p>
<p>Give someone the cold shoulder</p>	<p>Ignore someone</p>	<p>as part of a sentence</p>

Go on a wild goose chase	To do something pointless	as part of a sentence
Good things come to those who wait	Be patient	by itself
He has bigger fish to fry	He has bigger things to take care of than what we are talking about now	by itself
He's a chip off the old block	The son is like the father	by itself
Hit the nail on the head	Get something exactly right	by itself
Ignorance is bliss	You're better off not knowing	by itself
It ain't over till the fat lady sings	This isn't over yet	by itself
It takes one to know one	You're just as bad as I am	by itself

It's a piece of cake	It's easy	by itself
It's raining cats and dogs	It's raining hard	by itself
Kill two birds with one stone	Get two things done with a single action	by itself
Let the cat out of the bag	Give away a secret	as part of a sentence
Live and learn	I made a mistake	by itself
Look before you leap	Take only calculated risks	by itself
On thin ice	On probation. If you make another mistake, there will be trouble.	as part of a sentence
Once in a blue moon	Rarely	as part of a sentence
Play devil's advocate	To argue the opposite, just for the sake of argument	as part of a sentence

Put something on ice	Put a projet on hold	as part of a sentence
Rain on someone's parade	To spoil something	as part of a sentence
Saving for a rainy day	Saving money for later	as part of a sentence
Slow and steady wins the race	Reliability is more important than speed	by itself
Spill the beans	Give away a secret	as part of a sentence
Take a rain check	Postpone a plan	as part of a sentence
Take it with a grain of salt	Don't take it too seriously	as part of a sentence
The ball is in your court	It's your decision	by itself
The best thing since sliced bread	A really good invention	as part of a sentence

<p>The devil is in the details</p>	<p>It looks good from a distance, but when you look closer, there are problems</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>The early bird gets the worm</p>	<p>The first people who arrive will get the best stuff</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>The elephant in the room</p>	<p>The big issue, the problem people are avoiding</p>	<p>as part of a sentence</p>
<p>The whole nine yards</p>	<p>Everything, all the way.</p>	<p>as part of a sentence</p>
<p>There are other fish in the sea</p>	<p>It's ok to miss this opportunity. Others will arise.</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>There's a method to his madness</p>	<p>He seems crazy but actually he's clever</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>There's no such thing as a free lunch</p>	<p>Nothing is entirely free</p>	<p>by itself</p>
<p>Throw caution to the wind</p>	<p>Take a risk</p>	<p>as part of a sentence</p>

You can't have your cake and eat it too	You can't have everything	by itself
You can't judge a book by its cover	This person or thing may look bad, but it's good inside	by itself

Familiar English idioms & proverbs

These English idioms and proverbs are familiar and easily understood by native English speakers, but they are not usually used in everyday conversation. If you haven't mastered the more frequent idioms yet, they are a better place to start, but if you're already familiar with those expressions, the idioms below will further spice up your English.

Idiom	Meaning	Usage
A little learning is a dangerous thing	People who don't understand something fully are dangerous	by itself
A snowball effect	Events have momentum and build upon each other	as part of a sentence
A snowball's chance in hell	No chance at all	as part of a sentence
A stitch in time saves nine	Fix the problem now because it will get	by itself

	worse later	
A storm in a teacup	A big fuss about a small problem	as part of a sentence
An apple a day keeps the doctor away	Apples are good for you	by itself
An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure	You can prevent a problem with little effort. Fixing it later is harder.	by itself
As right as rain	Perfect	as part of a sentence
Bolt from the blue	Something that happened without warning	as part of a sentence
Burn bridges	Destroy relationships	as part of a sentence
Calm before the storm	Something bad is coming, but right now it's calm	as part of a sentence

Come rain or shine	No matter what	as part of a sentence
Curiosity killed the cat	Stop asking questions	by itself
Cut the mustard	Do a good job	as part of a sentence
Don't beat a dead horse	Move on, this subject is over	by itself
Every dog has his day	Everyone gets a chance at least once	by itself
Familiarity breeds contempt	The better you know someone the less you like him	by itself
Fit as a fiddle	In good health	as part of a sentence
Fortune favours the bold	Take risks	by itself
Get a second wind	Have more energy	as part of

	after having been tired	a sentence
Get wind of something	Hear news of something secret	as part of a sentence
Go down in flames	Fail spectacularly	as part of a sentence
Haste makes waste	You'll make mistakes if you rush through something	by itself
Have your head in the clouds	Not be concentrating	as part of a sentence
He who laughs last laughs loudest	I'll get you back for what you did	by itself
Hear something straight from the horse's mouth	Hear something from the person involved	as part of a sentence
He's not playing with a full deck	He's dumb	by itself
He's off his rocker	He's crazy	by itself

He's sitting on the fence	He can't make up his mind	by itself
It is a poor workman who blames his tools	If you can't do the job, don't blame it on others	by itself
It is always darkest before the dawn	Things are going to get better	by itself
It takes two to tango	One person alone isn't responsible. Both people are involved.	by itself
Jump on the bandwagon	Follow a trend, do what everyone else is doing	as part of a sentence
Know which way the wind is blowing	Understand the situation (usually negative)	as part of a sentence
Leave no stone unturned	Look everywhere	as part of a sentence
Let sleeping dogs lie	Stop discussing an issue	as part of a sentence

Like riding a bicycle	Something you never forget how to do	as part of a sentence
Like two peas in a pod	They're always together	as part of a sentence
Make hay while the sun shines	Take advantage of a good situation	as part of a sentence
On cloud nine	Very happy	as part of a sentence
Once bitten, twice shy	You're more cautious when you've been hurt before	by itself
Out of the frying pan and into the fire	Things are going from bad to worse	by itself
Run like the wind	Run fast	as part of a sentence
Shape up or ship out	Work better or leave	by itself
Snowed under	Busy	as part of

		a sentence
That ship has sailed	It's too late	by itself
The pot calling the kettle black	Someone criticizing someone else he is just as bad	as part of a sentence
There are clouds on the horizon	Trouble is coming	by itself
Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones	People who are morally questionable shouldn't criticize others	by itself
Through thick and thin	In good times and in bad times	as part of a sentence
Time is money	Work quickly	by itself
Waste not, want not	Don't waste things and you'll always have enough	by itself
We see eye to eye	We agree	by itself

Weather the storm	Go through something difficult	as part of a sentence
Well begun is half done	Getting a good start is important	by itself
When it rains it pours	Everything is going wrong at once	by itself
You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar	You'll get what you want by being nice	by itself
You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink	You can't force someone to make the right decision	by itself
You can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs	There's always a cost to doing something	by itself

3.2. Synonyms

Synonym definition: a **synonym** is a word or a phrase that means exactly or nearly the same thing as another word or phrase in English.

As you can probably guess, it's important to know these words for you to use in writing and speaking. When you think of synonyms, think of a thesaurus, because these useful books provide you with synonyms for different words so you never have to use the same word over and over again.

Synonyms Examples:

- Fast Synonyms: *Quick, Speedy, Rapid, Blistering, Nimble, Swift, ...*
- Strange Synonyms: *Odd, Weird, Surreal, Queer, Astonishing, Curious, ...*

- Amazing Synonyms: Adorable, Spectacular, Fantastic, Irresistible, Splendid, Alluring, Dazzling, Fascinating, Lovely, Staggering,...
- Bad Synonyms: Awful, Atrocious, Disagreeable, Grievous, Infamous, Odious, Sordid, Rotten, Awful, Disheartening...
- Great Synonyms: Admirable, Amazing, Arresting, Astonishing, Awesome, Beautiful, Breathtaking, Brilliant, Capital ...

Common

Synonyms

SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH

Accomplish Achieve	End Finish	Occur Happen	Ask Enquire
Admit Confess	Enormous Huge	Old Ancient	Blend Mix
Alike Same	Fast Quick	Opportunity Chance	Sick Ill
Assist Help	Fool Idiot	Page Sheet	Sincere Honest
Awful Terrible	Enjoyment Fun	Beautiful Pretty	Slim Thin
Begin Start	Garbage Trash	Peaceful Quiet	Small Tiny
Big Large	Gather Collect	Quiet Silent	Smart Clever
Buy Purchase	Present Gift	Reject Deny	Taxi Cab
Center Middle	Excellent Good	Rest Relax	Trust Believe
Child Kid	Help Assist	Rich Wealthy	Unfortunate Unlucky
Choose Select	Thought Idea	Coarse Rough	Value Worth
Complete Finish	Interesting Exciting	Round Circular	Want Desire
Delicious Yummy	Kind Helpful	Sad Unhappy	Wonderful Amazing
Depart Leave	Laugh Giggle	Rug Carpet	Write Record
Difficult Hard	Listen Hear	Scared Afraid	Writer Author
Easy Simple	Mistake Error	Embarrassed Shy	Wrong Incorrect
	Neat Tidy		

Synonyms

Types of Synonyms

Idiographic Synonyms or Relative Synonyms

These synonyms are so-called because they are words with similar meanings, but they are based on different degrees of describing certain qualities. This can be slightly complicated to explain, so examples are much easier to understand in the case of these synonyms:

- Let's look at different synonyms for the word attractive. Some examples of synonyms for attractive are – *beautiful, fine, handsome, pretty*. As you can see, these synonyms all describe someone's attractiveness, and whilst all of them do describe somebody as *being* attractive, some words carry with it slightly more weight, despite all of them essentially meaning the same thing. You might prefer to be called beautiful instead of pretty, or handsome instead of fine. All of them mean the same thing, but they do describe your attractiveness **to slightly different degrees**.
- Another example is **big**. Synonyms of big are – *huge, colossal, massive, ginormous* – again, all of them have the same meaning, but there are differences in the **degrees in their description of how big something is**. If you were to look at the Eiffel Tower in France from below, you'd likely describe it as ginormous, because saying it was big just wouldn't do it justice. Likewise, if you see a Great Dane, you might describe it as huge, because to say it was massive would be slightly too much. The different degrees of meaning are important, so they are all **idiographic synonyms** or **relative synonyms**.

Stylistic Synonyms

Stylistic synonyms are much easier to understand, because the meanings are exactly the same, but you use them interchangeably based only on the style of writing you are doing. So, some might be more appropriate to use in **formal** writing, and others are appropriate in informal writing. Let's take a look at some examples:

- **Doctor** or **Doc** – both of these mean exactly the same thing, but choosing which one to use would be based solely on the style of writing. If you were writing to your boss to request time off for a medical appointment, telling them that you are visiting the Doctor is much more appropriate than telling them you are visiting the Doc. However, if you are telling your friend about the medical advice you received in a text message, you might choose to tell them what the Doc said.
- **Commence** or **begin** – again, they mean exactly the same thing, but choosing them is entirely stylistic. If you are sitting around the dinner table with your friends, then asking if you should begin eating would be much more appropriate than asking whether or not you should commence. Likewise, if you are the commentator welcoming in the Olympic Games, saying something like 'Let the games commence' would be slightly more official and therefore more appropriate. Because it all comes down to choosing the word based on the style of writing or speaking that is necessary, they are **stylistic synonyms**.

Contextual Synonyms

These synonyms mean the same thing, but only based on the context in which they are used. Here are some examples to make that clearer:

- **Buy** and **Get** – in certain contexts, these are synonyms because they mean the same thing, but they won't always be classed as synonyms because they won't always be interchangeable. Telling someone to go and buy you something from the store, could be replaced by telling them to go and get you something from the store. They are interchangeable here and mean the same thing, so they are **contextual synonyms**. If you tell someone that you think you might get a cold, then replacing get with buy *wouldn't* make sense. In this context, they aren't synonyms.
- **Active** and **Athletic** – if you are describing a physically fit person who enjoys working out, then you could equally describe them as active or athletic and it would make perfect sense. If, however, you were on social media and updated your status to active, then athletic couldn't be used in its place because that just doesn't make sense. Because it relies on context, they are contextual synonyms.

Total Synonyms

These synonyms are synonyms in their purest form. It isn't based on the degree of anything, or context, or even stylistic choice. These words just have the **exact same meaning** and can be switched whenever. Here are some examples:

- **Perfect** and **flawless** – these words mean exactly the same thing, and are completely interchangeable in every context. They don't describe the degree of anything because their meaning is exactly the same, so they are **total synonyms**.

There are, in fact, very few examples of total synonyms, because so often they depend on something else. There are, of course, more examples than those above though.

Why Learn Synonyms?

Synonyms are some of the most important linguistic devices we can learn, because without them we would be very limited in our vocabulary. By knowing the different examples of synonyms listed above, you can be sure that you are able to describe things effectively. Sometimes synonyms rely on context, degrees of description, or stylistic choice, so knowing how to adapt your writing or speech to suit whatever situation you are in is important!

Hopefully, this guide will teach you more about synonyms and give you some ideas for you to use in your own writing!

Synonyms List

An extensive list of common synonyms in English from A to Z with synonyms examples.

Synonyms (A)

Learn the list of common synonyms that start with A with examples.

Abandon — Forsake

- *People often simply **abandon** their pets when they go abroad*
- *He had made it clear to his wife that he would never **forsake** her.*

Able — Capable

- *You must be **able** to speak French for this job.*
- *You are **capable** of better work than this.*

Accomplish — Achieve

- *Easy enough to say, but sometimes hard to **accomplish**!*
- *They could not **achieve** their target of less than 3% inflation.*

Accurate — Precise

- *Scientists have found a more **accurate** way of dating cave paintings.*
- *I can be reasonably **precise** about the time of the incident.*

Active — Athletic

- *She's over 80, but is still very **active**.*
- *He can play any sport, he's naturally **athletic**.*

Admit — Confess

- *Don't be afraid to **admit** to your mistakes.*
- *We persuaded her to **confess** her crime.*

Agree — Consent

- *I agree with her analysis of the situation.*
- *I rarely **consent** to do interviews.*

Aim — Goal/ Purpose

- *Our main **aim** is to increase sales in Europe.*
- *Your **goal** as a parent is to help your child become an independent adult.*
- *The **purpose** of the book is to provide a complete guide to the university.*

Alike — Same

- *My mother and I are **alike** in many ways.*
- *She was born on the **same** day as me.*

All — Every

- *The boys played video games **all** day.*
- *I enjoyed **every** minute of the film.*

Allow — Permit

- *My parents wouldn't **allow** me to go to the party*
- *We were not **permitted** any contact with each other.*

Amiable — Friendly

- *Her parents seemed very **amiable**.*
- *Everyone was very **friendly** towards me.*

Amount — Quantity

- *We've had an enormous **amount** of help from people.*
- *The police also found a **quantity** of ammunition in the flat.*

Angry — Mad/ Irritated

- *Her behavior really made me **angry**.*
- *He's always been **mad** about kids.*
- *She was getting more and more **irritated** at his comments.*

Arrive — Reach

- They **arrived** at the airport at 10.30.
- You should **reach** there around 9.45 a.m.

Ask — Enquire

- We'll have to **ask** someone the way to the station.
- I called the station to **enquire** about train times.

Assist — Help

- Anyone willing to **assist** can contact this number.
- This charity aims to **help** people to help themselves.

Assure — Guarantee

- We were **assured** that everything possible was being done.
- We cannot **guarantee** our flights will never be delayed.

Attire — Dress

- Their **attire** was a mixture of the sombre and seaside wear.
- I am wearing the long white **dress**.

Away — Absent

- There were ten children **away** yesterday.
- Today, he is **absent** from work.

Awful — Terrible/ Bad

- The weather last summer was **awful**.
- That's a **terrible** thing to say!
- I'm having a really **bad** day.

Synonyms (B)

Learn a list of synonyms that start with B with examples.

Bargain — Deal

- The car was a **bargain** at that price.

- We did a **deal** with the management on overtime.

Begin — Start

- He always **begins** his lessons with a warmup exercise.
- I only **started** this book yesterday.

Beginner — Novice/ Amateur

- She's in the **beginners'** class.
- I'm a complete **novice** at skiing.
- The tournament is open to both **amateurs** and professionals.

Behave — Act

- The doctor **behaved** very unprofessionally.
- John's been **acting** very strangely lately.

Belly — Stomach

- They crawled along on their **bellies**.
- You shouldn't exercise on a full **stomach**.

Below — Under

- He dived **below** the surface of the water.
- The dog squeezed **under** the gate and ran into the road.

Big — Vast/ Large

- It's the world's **biggest** computer company.
- His business empire was **vast**.
- Brazil is the world's **largest** producer of coffee.

Blank — Empty

- Sign your name in the **blank** space below.
- It's not good to drink alcohol on an **empty** stomach.

Blend — Mix

- ***Blend** together the eggs, sugar and flour.*
- ***Mix** all the ingredients together in a bowl.*

Bother — Annoy

- *I don't want to **bother** her with my problems at the moment.*
- *His constant joking was beginning to **annoy** her.*

Brave — Courageous

- *I wasn't **brave** enough to tell her what I thought of her.*
- *I hope people will be **courageous** enough to speak out against this injustice.*

Broad — Wide

- *He is tall, **broad** and muscular.*
- *Her face broke into a **wide** grin.*

Brute — Rough/ Violent

- *His father was a drunken brute.*
- *This watch is not designed for rough treatment.*
- *Her husband was a violent man.*

Bucket — Pail

- *They were playing on the beach with their **buckets** and spades.*
- *It was a community that drank out of the beer **pail** and ate out of the lunch bucket.*

Bunny — Rabbit

- *A little **bunny** seemed harmless enough.*
- *I want to have a **rabbit**.*

Business — Trade

- *It's been a pleasure to do **business** with you.*
- ***Trade** between the two countries has increased.*

Buy — Purchase

- *If you're thinking of getting a new car, now is a good time to **buy**.*
- *The equipment can be **purchased** from your local supplier.*

Synonyms (C)

Common synonyms that start with C with examples.

Center — Middle

- *There was an enormous oak table in the **center** of the room.*
- *He was standing in the **middle** of the room.*

Chiefly — Mainly

- *We are **chiefly** concerned with improving educational standards.*
- *They eat **mainly** fruit and nuts.*

Child — Kid

- *I lived in London as a **child**.*
- *She's a bright **kid**.*

Choose — Select/ Pick

- *We have to **choose** a new manager from a shortlist of five candidates.*
- *She was **selected** as the parliamentary candidate for Bath.*
- *She **picked** the best cake for herself.*

Chop — Cut

- *He was **chopping** logs for firewood.*
- *You need a powerful saw to **cut** through metal.*

Close — Shut

- *I **closed** my eyes against the bright light.*
- *Philip went into his room and **shut** the door behind him.*

Coat — Jacket

- *I have a long winter **coat**.*

- *I have to wear a **jacket** and tie to work.*

Cold — Chilly/ Freezing

- *Today, it is very **cold**.*
- *I was feeling **chilly**.*
- *My hands are **freezing**!*

Competent — Capable

- *He's very **competent** in his work.*
- *You are **capable** of better work than this.*

Complete — Finish

- *The project should be **completed** within a year.*
- *She **finished** law school last year.*

Complex — Complicated

- *That's a **complex** problem.*
- *The story is extremely **complicated**.*

Connect — Join

- *The towns are **connected** by train and bus services.*
- *The island is **joined** to the mainland by a bridge.*

Cope — Manage

- *He wasn't able to **cope** with the stresses and strains of the job.*
- *She's 82 and can't **manage** on her own any more.*

Couch — Sofa

- *Tom offered to sleep on the **couch**.*
- *I took my shoe off and lay down on the **sofa**.*

Coarse — Rough

- *He is wearing a jacket of **coarse** wool.*
- *The skin on her hands was hard and **rough**.*

Crash — Accident

- *A girl was killed yesterday in a **crash** involving a stolen car.*
- *He was killed in an **accident**.*

Crook — Criminal

- *The film portrays a world of smalltime **crooks**, petty crime and drinking clubs.*
- *Lawyers are not allowed to comment on current **criminal** cases.*

Cry — Weep

- *It's all right. Don't **cry**.*
- *She started to **weep** uncontrollably.*

Cunning — Clever

- *It was a **cunning** piece of detective work.*
- *He's **clever** with his hands.*

List of Common Synonyms in English



Annoy..... Bother	Angry..... Mad	Brave..... Courageous	Father..... Dad
Cold..... Chilly	Allow..... Permit	Keep..... Hold	Mother..... Mom
Trade..... Business	Evaluate..... Assess	Crash..... Accident	Extra..... Additional
Assist..... Help	Uncommon..... Unusual	Thankful..... Grateful	Destiny..... Fate
Road..... Highway	Former..... Previous	Yearly..... Annually	Danger..... Risk
Odd..... Weird	Belly..... Stomach	Suggest..... Propose	Freedom..... Liberty
Try..... Attempt	Woman..... Lady	Think..... Consider	Funny..... Entertaining
Shout..... Yell	Accurate..... Precise	Aim..... Goal	Gentle..... Tender
Like..... Enjoy	Diminish..... Decrease	Lucky..... Fortunate	Glad..... Delighted
Assure..... Guarantee	Behave..... Act	Nearly..... Almost	Infant..... Baby
Bargain..... Deal	Fall..... Drop	Particular..... Specific	Job..... Occupation
Below..... Under	False..... Untrue	Perform..... Carry out	Last..... Final
Blank..... Empty	Fantastic..... Great	Receive..... Get	Learn..... Study
Away..... Absent	Find..... Discover	Rescue..... Save	Sure..... Certain
Connect..... Join	Fix..... Repair	Split..... Divide	Temper(UK)..... Mood
Respond..... Reply	Forbid..... Prohibit	Winner..... Victor	Unmarried..... Single
Respect..... Honor	Scared..... Afraid		

Synonyms (D)

Common synonyms that start with D with examples.

Danger — Harm

- *Children's lives are in **danger** every time they cross this road.*
- *He would never frighten anyone or cause them any **harm**.*

Daybreak — Dawn/ Sunrise

- *We left before **daybreak**.*
- *They start work at dawn.*
- *We left before sunrise.*

Dear — Expensive

- *Everything's so **dear** now, isn't it?*
- *I can't afford it, it's too **expensive**.*

Defective — Faulty

- *Her hearing was found to be slightly **defective**.*
- *Ask for a refund if the goods are **faulty**.*

Delicious — Yummy

- *This dish is **delicious** with cream.*
- *These biscuits are **yummy**.*

Demolish — Destroy/ Wreck

- *The factory is due to be **demolished** next year.*
- *The building was completely **destroyed** by fire.*
- *The house was a **wreck** when we bought it.*

Demonstrate — Protest

- *They are **demonstrating** in favor of free higher education.*
- *Students took to the streets to **protest** against the decision.*

Denounce — Blame/ Indict

- *Amnesty International **denounced** the failure by the authorities to take action.*
- *The report **blames** poor safety standards for the accident.*

- They were **indicted** on a number of corruption charges.

Dense — Thick/ Heavy

- A narrow track wound steeply up through **dense** forest.
- This breed of cattle has a very **thick** coat.
- The air was **heavy** with the scent of flowers.

Depart — Leave

- The train **departed** Amritsar at 6.15 p.m.
- The plane **leaves** for Dallas at 12.35.

Despise — Hate/ Detest/ Loathe

- She thoroughly **despised** him for his weakness.
- He **hates** violence in any form.
- They **detested** each other on sight.
- I **loathe** modern art.

Destiny — Fate

- I believe there's some force guiding us—call it God, **destiny** or fate.
- By a strange twist of **fate**, Andy and I were on the same plane.

Destitute — Poor/ Penniless

- When he died, his family was left completely **destitute**.
- They were too **poor** to buy shoes for the kids.
- Uncle Charlie was jobless and **penniless**.

Detach — Remove

- The skis should **detach** from the boot if you fall.
- Three children were **removed** from the school for persistent bad behavior.

Deter — Hinder

- The high price of the service could **deter** people from seeking advice.
- Some teachers felt **hindered** by a lack of resources.

Determined — Sure/ Convinced

- *I'm **determined** to succeed.*
- *You don't sound very **sure**.*
- *I am **convinced** of her innocence.*

Different — Diverse

- *They are sold in many **different** colors.*
- *My interests are very **diverse**.*

Difficult — Hard

- *Your writing is really **difficult** to read.*
- *It was one of the **hardest** things I ever did.*

Diminish — Decrease

- *The world's resources are rapidly **diminishing**.*
- *The number of new students **decreased** from 210 to 160 this year.*

Disappear — Vanish

- *The plane **disappeared** behind a cloud.*
- *The magician **vanished** in a puff of smoke.*

Disclose — Reveal

- *The spokesman refused to **disclose** details of the takeover to the press.*
- *The doctors did not **reveal** the truth to him.*

Down — Below

- *The stone rolled **down** the hill.*
- *He dived **below** the surface of the water.*

Synonyms (E)

Learn synonym words that start with E with examples.

Earth — Ground

- *After a week at sea, it was good to feel the **earth** beneath our feet again.*

- *I found her lying on the **ground**.*

Easy — Simple

- *It's **easy** for you to tell me to keep calm, but you're not in my position.*
- *The answer is really quite **simple**.*

Encourage — Urge

- *My parents have always **encouraged** me in my choice of career.*
- *The report **urged** that all children be taught to swim.*

End — Finish/ Conclude

- *They decided to **end** their relationship.*
- *She **finished** law school last year.*
- *She **concluded** her speech with a quotation from Shakespeare.*

Enlarge — Magnify

- *There are plans to **enlarge** the recreation area.*
- *The picture shows the insect's head **magnified** ten times.*

Enormous — Huge

- *The problems facing the President are **enormous**.*
- *He gazed up at her with **huge** brown eyes.*

Enquire — Investigate

- *I called the station to **enquire** about train times.*
- *The FBI has been called in to **investigate**.*

Evaluate — Assess

- *Our research attempts to **evaluate** the effectiveness of the different drugs.*
- *Damage to the building was **assessed** at £40 000.*

Everlasting — Eternal

- To his **everlasting** credit, he never told anyone what I'd done.
- She's an **eternal** optimist.

Extra — Additional

- Breakfast is provided at no **extra** charge.
- The government provided an **additional** £25 million to expand the service.

Synonyms (F)

List of common synonyms that start with F with examples.

Faithful — Loyal/ Devoted

- I have been a **faithful** reader of your newspaper for many years.
- She has always remained **loyal** to her political principles.
- They are **devoted** to their children.

Fall — Drop

- September had come and the leaves were starting to **fall**.
- The climber slipped and **dropped** to his death.

False — Untrue

- He used a **false** name to get the job.
- These accusations are totally **untrue**.

Famous — Renowned

- He became internationally **famous** for his novels.
- She is renowned for her patience.

Fantastic — Great

- The weather was absolutely **fantastic**.
- This represents a **great** achievement.

Fast — Quick

- He's one of the **fastest** runners in the world.
- She walked with short, **quick** steps.

Father — Dad

- *He was a wonderful **father** to both his natural and adopted children.*
- *That's my **dad** over there.*

Find — Discover

- *Can you **find** my bag for me?*
- *Police **discovered** a large stash of drugs while searching the house.*

Fix — Repair/ Mend

- *I've **fixed** the problem.*
- *The human body has an amazing capacity to **repair** itself.*
- *Could you **mend** my bike for me?*

Fool — Idiot

- *He told me he was an actor and I was **fool** enough to believe him.*
- *When I lost my passport, I felt such an **idiot**.*

Forbid — Prohibit/ Ban

- *My doctor has **forbidden** me sugar.*
- *The policy **prohibits** smoking on school grounds.*
- *Chemical weapons are **banned** internationally.*

Forgive — Pardon

- *I'll never **forgive** her for what she did.*
- *She was **pardoned** after serving ten years of a life sentence.*

Former — Previous

- *Nelson Mandela is a **former** South African president.*
- *She is his daughter from a **previous** marriage.*

Fraction — Part/ Portion/ Segment

- *She hesitated for the merest **fraction** of a second.*
- *We spent **part** of the time in the museum.*

- The central **portion** of the bridge collapsed.
- She cleaned a small **segment** of the painting.

Fragrance — Perfume

- They are about to launch their first **fragrance** for men.
- She was wearing too much **perfume**.

Frank — Candid

- He was very **frank** about his relationship with the actress.
- I felt she was being less than **candid** with me.

Freedom — Liberty

- People here like their **freedom** and privacy.
- The concept of individual **liberty** is enshrined in the constitution.

Frenzy — Fury/ Rage

- The speaker worked the crowd up into a **frenzy**.
- Her eyes blazed with **fury**.
- His face was dark with **rage**.

Fresh — Unused/ New

- Let me write it down while it's still **fresh** in my mind.
- The house was left **unused** for most of the year.
- Have you read her **new** novel?

Fun — Enjoyment

- We had a lot of **fun** at Sarah's party.
- I get a lot of **enjoyment** from music.

Funny — Amusing/ Entertaining

- It's not **funny**! Someone could have been hurt.
- It's a very **amusing** game to play.
- It was a very **entertaining** evening.

Furious — Angry

- *She was absolutely **furious** at having been deceived.*
- *Her behavior really made me **angry**.*

Synonyms (G)

List of synonyms that start with G with examples.

Gain — Acquire/ Obtain

- *The country **gained** its independence ten years ago.*
- *She has **acquired** a good knowledge of English.*
- *I finally managed to **obtain** a copy of the report.*

Gallant — Chivalrous

- *That wasn't very **gallant** of you.*
- *I was only trying to be **chivalrous**.*

Garbage — Trash/ Rubbish

- *Don't forget to take out the **garbage**.*
- *Will someone take out the **trash**?*
- *The streets were littered with **rubbish**.*

Gather — Collect

- *His supporters gathered in the main square.*
- *The company collects information about consumer trends.*

Gaunt — Scrawny/ Skinny/ Thin

- *She looked **gaunt and exhausted**.*
- *He had long **scrawny** fingers.*
- *She had wild hair and long **skinny** arms.*
- *He was tall and **thin**, with dark hair.*

Gentle — Tender

- *He lived in a **gentle** age than ours.*
- *What he needs now is a lot of **tender** loving care.*

Gift — Present

- *The watch was a gift from my mother.*
- *What can I get him for a birthday present?*

Glad — Happy/ Pleased/ Delighted/ Cheerful/ Joyful/ Merry

- *She was **glad** when the meeting was over.*
- *You don't look very **happy** today.*
- *She was very **pleased** with her exam results.*
- *I was **delighted** that you could stay.*
- *He felt bright and **cheerful** and full of energy.*
- *It was a **joyful** reunion of all the family.*
- *He's a lovely man with **merry** eyes and a wide smile.*

Good — Excellent

- *The piano was in **good** condition.*
- *She speaks **excellent** French.*

Great — Grand

- *People were arriving in **great** numbers.*
- *It's not a very **grand** house.*

Synonyms (H)

Synonyms list that starts with H with examples.

Hat — Cap

- *I'm wearing two **hats** tonight—parent and teacher.*
- *He is wearing a baseball **cap**.*

Have — Own/ Possess

- *I **have** a new car and a boat.*
- *I don't **own** anything of any value.*
- *I'm afraid this is the only suitcase I **possess**.*

Help — Assist

- *He always **helps** with the housework.*
- *We will **assist** you in finding somewhere to live.*

Hot — Boiling

- *It was **hot** and getting hotter.*
- *You must be **boiling** in that sweater!*

House — Home

- *He went into the **house**.*
- *We are not far from my **home** now.*

Synonyms (I)

List of synonyms that start with I with examples.

Idea — Thought

- *I like the **idea** of living on a boat.*
- *I don't like the **thought** of you walking home alone.*

Important — Significant

- *Money played an **important** role in his life.*
- *Your work has shown a **significant** improvement.*

Infant — Baby

- *She was seriously ill as an **infant**.*
- *My sister's expecting a **baby**.*

Inspect — Examine

- *The plants are regularly **inspected** for disease.*
- *The doctor **examined** her but could find nothing wrong.*

Interesting — Exciting

- *It would be **interesting** to know what he really believed.*
- *They waited and waited for something **exciting** to happen.*

Synonyms (J)

Learn synonyms list that starts with J with examples.

Job — Occupation/ Work/ Career

- *He's trying to get a **job**.*
- *Please state your name, age and **occupation** below.*
- *It's very difficult to find **work** at the moment.*
- *He had a very distinguished **career** in the Foreign Office.*

Jungle — Forest

- *The area was covered in dense **jungle**.*
- *Thousands of hectares of **forest** are destroyed each year.*

Synonyms (K)

Learn synonym words that start with K with examples.

Keep — Hold

- *She **keeps** the blue bear as a souvenir.*
- *The girl **holds** her father's hand tightly.*

Kind — Helpful

- *She's a very **kind** and generous person.*
- *She's one of the most **helpful** people I know.*

Synonyms (L)

List of synonyms that start with L with examples.

Last — Final/ Ultimate

- *I wouldn't marry you if you were the **last** person on earth!*
- *They find each other in the **final** chapter of the book.*
- *We will accept **ultimate** responsibility for whatever happens.*

Late — Tardy

- *She's **late** for work every day.*
- *The law is often **tardy** in reacting to changing attitudes.*

Laugh — Giggle

- *She always makes me **laugh**.*
- *The girls **giggled** at the joke.*

Learn — Study

- *She's very keen to **learn** about Japanese culture.*
- *My brother **studied** at the Royal College of Art.*

Like — Love/ Enjoy/ Prefer

- *I don't **like** the way he's looking at me.*
- *If you **love** each other, why not get married?*
- *Thanks for a great evening. I really **enjoyed** it.*
- *I **prefer** my coffee black.*

Listen — Hear

- *I **listened** carefully to her story.*
- *He could **hear** a dog barking.*

Long — Endless

- *There was a **long** silence before she spoke.*
- *The journey seemed **endless**.*

Look — Glance/ See/ Watch/ View

- *If you **look** carefully you can just see our house from here.*
- *She **glanced** at her watch.*
- *I hate to **see** you unhappy.*
- *She **watched** the kids playing in the yard.*
- *People came from all over the world to **view** her work.*

Loud — Noisy

- *She spoke in a very **loud** voice.*
- *The streets were very **noisy** throughout the night.*

Lucky — Fortunate

- *His friend was killed and he knows he is **lucky** to be alive.*
- *I have been **fortunate** enough to visit many parts of the world as a lecturer.*

Synonyms (M)

Learn synonyms list that starts with M with examples.

Many — Numerous

- *There are too **many** mistakes in this essay.*
- *He has been late on **numerous** occasions.*

Misery — Distress/ Hardship

- *Fame brought her nothing but **misery**.*
- *The charity aims to relieve poverty and **distress** caused by natural disasters.*
- *People suffered many **hardships** during that long winter.*

Mistake — Error

- *It would be a **mistake** to ignore his opinion.*
- *I think you have made an **error** in calculating the total.*

Mix — Stir/ Mingle/ Blend

- *Oil does not **mix** with water.*
- *The vegetables are **stirred** into the rice while it is hot.*
- *He felt a kind of happiness **mingled** with regret.*
- ***Blend** the flour with the milk to make a smooth paste.*

Mother — Mom

- *I want to buy a present for my **mother** and father.*
- *My **mom** says I have to stay home tonight.*

Synonyms (N)

List of common synonyms that start with N with examples.

Naughty — Mischievous

- *He is a **naughty** boy.*
- *She looked slightly **mischievous**.*

Nearly — Almost

- *The bottle's **nearly** empty.*
- *The story is **almost** certainly false.*

Neat — Tidy

- *She was wearing a **neat** black suit.*

- *She keeps her flat very **tidy**.*

Synonyms (O)

List of synonyms that start with O with examples.

Occur — Happen

- *When exactly did the incident **occur**?*
- *You'll never guess what's **happened**!*

Odd — Strange/ Queer/ Weird

- *The **odd** thing was that he didn't recognize me.*
- *A **strange** thing happened this morning.*
- *She had a **queer** feeling that she was being watched.*
- *It's really **weird** seeing yourself on television.*

Old — Ancient

- *He always gives the same **old** excuses.*
- *That's an **ancient** oak tree!*

Opportunity — Chance

- *You'll have the **opportunity** to ask any questions at the end.*
- *Please give me a **chance** to explain.*

Outside — Exterior

- *You can't open the door from the **outside**.*
- *The **exterior** of the house needs painting.*

Common Synonyms List in English

Synonyms (P)

Learn common synonyms list that starts with P with examples.

Page — Sheet

- *Someone has torn a **page** out of this book.*
- *Start each answer on a fresh **sheet**.*

Particular — Specific

- *There is one **particular** patient I'd like you to see.*
- *The money was collected for a **specific** purpose.*

Pastime — Hobby

- *Watching television now seems to be the most popular national **pastime**.*
- *I only play jazz as a **hobby**.*

Pause — Hesitate

- *Anita **paused** for a moment, then said: 'All right'.*
- *He seemed to **hesitate** a second.*

Perform — Act/ Carry out

- *She **performs** an important role in our organization.*
- *Can you **act** as interpreter?*
- *Extensive tests have been **carried out** on the patient.*

Place — Put

- *He **placed** his hand on her shoulder.*
- *Did you **put** sugar in my coffee?*

Play — Frolic

- *You'll have to **play** inside today.*
- *Lambs **frolicked** in the next field.*

Polite — Courteous

- *Please be **polite** to our guests.*
- *The hotel staffs are friendly and **courteous**.*

Popular — Favorite

- *This is one of our most **popular** designs.*
- *It's one of my **favorite** movies.*

Precarious — Uncertain/ Insecure

- *The museum is in a financially **precarious** position.*
- *They're both **uncertain** about what to do.*
- ***Insecure** doors and windows make life easy for burglars.*

Pretty — Beautiful

- *She is a **pretty** girl.*
- *She looked stunningly **beautiful** that night.*

Prompt — Immediate/ Instant

- ***Prompt** payment of the invoice would be appreciated.*
- *Our **immediate** response to the attack was sheer horror.*
- *This account gives you **instant** access to your money.*

Pull — Tug

- ***Pull** the chair nearer the table.*
- *She tried to escape but he **tugged** her back.*

Push — Shove

- *She **pushed** at the door but it wouldn't budge.*
- *The door wouldn't open no matter how hard she **shoved**.*

Synonym (Q)

List of synonyms that start with Q with examples.

Quake — Tremble

- *They are **quaking** in their boots at the prospect of tomorrow's game.*
- *He opened the letter with **trembling** hands.*

Quiet — Peaceful

- *I was looking forward to a **quiet** evening at home.*
- *He had a **peaceful** life.*

Quiet — Silent

- *“Be **quiet**,” said the teacher.*
- *“Keep **silent**, please!”*

Quite — Fairly/ Pretty

- *He plays **quite** well.*
- *I know him **fairly** well, but I wouldn't say we were really close friends.*
- *I'm **pretty** sure I'll be going.*

Synonyms (R)

List of common synonyms that start with R with examples.

Raise — Lift

- *She **raised** the gun and fired.*
- *I **lifted** the lid of the box and peered in.*

Real — Genuine/ True

- *Are those **real** flowers?*
- *Is the painting a **genuine** Picasso?*
- *The novel is based on a **true** story.*

Receive — Get

- *He **received** an award for bravery from the police service.*
- *I **got** a letter from Dave this morning.*

Regret — Remorse

- *She expressed her **regret** at the decision.*
- *She felt no **remorse** at leaving them without notice.*

Reject — Deny/ Refuse

- *The prime minister **rejected** any idea of reforming the system.*
- *She **denied** all knowledge of the incident.*
- *I politely **refused** their invitation.*

Reliable — Dependable/ Trustworthy

- *We are looking for someone who is **reliable** and hardworking.*

- *She is a **dependable** man.*
- *If you want your mom to trust you, you have to be a **trustworthy** person.*

Remark — Comment

- *The judges **remarked** on the high standard of entries for the competition.*
- *I don't feel I can **comment** on their decision.*

Renew — Resume

- *The army **renewed** its assault on the capital.*
- *She **resumed** her career after an interval of six years.*

Rescue — Save

- *He **rescued** a child from drowning.*
- *Doctors were unable to **save** her.*

Respect — Honor

- *I have the greatest **respect** for your brother.*
- *They stood in silence as a mark of **honor** to her.*

Respond — Reply/ Answer

- *I asked him his name, but he didn't **respond**.*
- *He never **replied** to any of my letters.*
- *I repeated the question, but she didn't **answer**.*

Rest — Relax

- *The doctor told me to **rest**.*
- *Just **relax** and enjoy the movie.*

Right — Correct/ Proper/ True

- *You were quite **right** to criticize him.*
- *Please check that these details are **correct**.*
- *We should have had a **proper** discussion before voting.*
- *I think it would be **true** to say that the show was a success.*

Rich — Wealthy

- *Nobody gets **rich** from writing nowadays.*
- *They live in a **wealthy** suburb of Chicago.*

Round — Circular

- *The child was watching it all with big **round** eyes.*
- *The crater was two miles across and roughly **circular**.*

Rug — Carpet

- *There were several brightly colored **rugs** scattered around.*
- *My bedroom **carpet** is green.*

Rule — Law

- *The 1972 act imposed direct **rule** from Westminster.*
- *The reforms have recently become **law**.*

Synonyms (S)

Learn synonyms list that starts with S with examples.

Sack — Bag

- *We need about a **sack** of rice.*
- *She is holding a plastic **bag**.*

Sad — Unhappy

- *We are very **sad** to hear that you are leaving.*
- *I was **unhappy** that she had to go.*

Say — Tell/ Talk/ Speak

- *Be quiet, I have something to **say**.*
- ***Tell** me where you live.*
- *Stop **talking** and listen!*
- *The President refused to **speak** to the waiting journalists.*

Scared — Terrified/ Frightened/ Afraid

- She is **scared** of going out alone.
- I'm **terrified** of losing you.
- I'm **frightened** of walking home alone in the dark.
- I started to feel **afraid** of going out alone at night.

Shop — Store

- There's a little gift **shop** around the corner.
- She worked in a grocery **store** before going to college.

Shout — Scream/ Yell

- I **shouted** for help but nobody came.
- He **screamed** at me to stop.
- She **yelled** at the child to get down from the wall.

Shy — Bashful/ Timid/ Embarrassed

- She was too **shy** to ask anyone for help.
- She looked **bashful** when he asked her what she wanted.
- He stopped in the doorway, too **timid** to go in.
- He felt **embarrassed** at being the centre of attention.

Sick — Ill

- Her mother's very **sick**.
- Her father is seriously **ill** in St Luke's hospital.

Sincere — Honest

- He seemed **sincere** enough when he said he wanted to help.
- Give me your **honest** opinion.

Slim — Slender/ Thin

- She was tall and **slim**.
- She is **slender** and stylish.
- She was looking pale and **thin**.

Small — Little/ Tiny/ Diminutive

- *They're having a relatively **small** wedding.*
- *She gave a **little** laugh.*
- *Only a **tiny** minority hold such extreme views.*
- *She was a **diminutive** figure beside her husband.*

Smart — Brilliant/ Intelligent/ Clever/ Bright

- *She's **smarter** than her brother.*
- *She has one of the most **brilliant** minds in the country.*
- *She asked a lot of **intelligent** questions.*
- *He's too **clever** by half, if you ask me.*
- *She's probably the **brightest** student in the class.*

Smile — Grin

- *He **smiled** with relief.*
- *They **grinned** with delight when they heard our news.*

Sniff — Smell

- *The dog **sniffed** at my shoes.*
- *I could **smell** alcohol on his breath.*

Sordid — Dirty

- *These were the urban poor, living in the **sordid** back streets and alleys of prosperous Victorian cities.*
- *She circled the bedroom, picking up **dirty** clothes.*

Speech — Lecture

- *He made the announcement in a **speech** on television.*
- *He regularly gives **lectures** on modern French literature.*

Split — Divide

- *She **split** the class into groups of four.*
- *A sentence can be **divided** up into meaningful segments.*

Spooky — Scary/ Creepy

- *It got a bit **spooky** when James started telling ghost stories.*
- *It was a really **scary** moment.*
- *It's kind of **creepy** down in the cellar!*

Sprint — Run

- *Three runners **sprinted** past.*
- *I had to **run** to catch the bus.*

Stone — Rock

- *The floors are made of **stone**.*
- *To build the tunnel, they had to cut through 500 feet of solid **rock**.*

Story — Tale

- *He read the children a **story**.*
- *His latest book is a delightful children's **tale** about talking animals.*

Street — Highway

- *The bank is just across the **street**.*
- *He took **highway** 314 heading north.*

Suggest — Propose

- *May I **suggest** a white wine with this dish, Sir?*
- *The government **proposed** changes to the voting system.*

Sundown — Sunset

- *The celebration begins at **sundown**.*
- *Every evening at **sunset** the flag was lowered.*

Sure — Certain

- *You don't sound very **sure**.*
- *She looks **certain** to win an Oscar.*

Synonym (T)

Learn synonyms list that starts with T with examples.

Talkative — Communicative

- *She was in a **talkative** mood.*
- *He wasn't very **communicative** and kept things to himself.*

Taxi — Cab

- *We'd better take a **taxi**.*
- *I took a **cab** to the airport.*

Temper — Mood

- *He must learn to control his **temper**.*
- *He's always in a bad **mood**.*

Thankful — Grateful

- *I was **thankful** to see they'd all arrived safely.*
- *I am extremely **grateful** to all the teachers for their help.*

Think — Ponder/ Consider

- *I didn't **think** you liked sports.*
- *The senator **pondered** the question for a moment.*
- *She **considered** her options.*

Toss — Throw

- *She **tossed** her jacket onto the bed.*
- *Some kids were **throwing** stones at the window.*

Total — Entire/ Whole

- *This bought the **total** number of accidents so far this year to 113.*
- *The **entire** village was destroyed.*
- *He spent the **whole** day writing.*

Transform — Convert

- The photochemical reactions **transform** the light into electrical impulses.
- The hotel is going to be **converted** into a nursing home.

Trip — Journey

- We went on a **trip** to the mountains.
- They went on a long train **journey** across India.

Trust — Believe

- You can **trust** me not to tell anyone.
- I **believed** his lies for years.

Try — Attempt

- I don't know if I can come but I'll **try**.
- I will **attempt** to answer all your questions.

Trivial — Unimportant

- I know it sounds **trivial**, but I'm worried about it.
- I was just a young girl from a small town and I felt very **unimportant**.

Synonyms (U)

List of synonyms that start with U with examples.

Uncommon — Unusual

- Side effects from the drug are **uncommon**.
- She has a very **unusual** name.

Uncooked — Raw

- The steak was **uncooked** in the middle.
- These fish are often eaten **raw**.

Uneasy — Restless/ Concerned/ Nervous/ Anxious

- His presence made her feel **uneasy**.
- After five years in the job, he was beginning to feel **restless**.
- The President is deeply **concerned** about this issue.
- I felt really **nervous** before the interview.

- *He seemed **anxious** about the meeting.*

Unfortunate — Unlucky

- *He was **unfortunate** to lose in the final round.*
- *He was very **unlucky** not to win.*

Unlawful — Illegal

- *The jury returned a verdict of **unlawful** killing.*
- *It's **illegal** to drive through a red light.*

Unmarried — Single

- *She was sent away to a home for **unmarried** mothers.*
- *The apartments are ideal for **single** people living alone.*

Usually — Generally

- *I'm **usually** home by 6 o'clock.*
- *I **generally** get up at six.*

Synonyms (V)

List of common synonyms that start with V with examples.

Value — Worth

- *The winner will receive a prize to the **value** of £1 000.*
- *He has a personal net **worth** of \$10 million.*

Very — Extremely

- *The new building has been **very** much admired.*
- *This issue is **extremely** complicated.*

Synonyms (W-Y)

List of synonyms that start with W, Y with examples.

Walk — Stroll

- *He **walked** slowly away from her.*
- *People were **strolling** along the beach.*

Want — Desire

- *She's always **wanted** a large family.*
- *We all **desire** health and happiness.*

Weak — Feeble

- *She is still **weak** after her illness.*
- *The heartbeat was **feeble** and irregular.*

Winner — Victor

- *The **winners** of the competition will be announced next month.*
- *There are no **victors** in a divorce.*

Woman — Lady

- *I prefer to see a **woman** doctor.*
- *He was with an attractive young **lady**.*

Wonderful — Amazing

- *It's **wonderful** what you can do when you have to.*
- *It's **amazing** the difference a few polite words make.*

Word — Expression

- *Could I have a quick **word** with you?*
- *Her writing is full of colorful **expressions**.*

Write — Record

- ***Write** your name at the top of the paper.*
- *The band is back in the US **recording** their new album.*

Writer — Author

- *She's one of my favorite **writers**.*
- *He was the **author** of two books on China.*

Wrong — Incorrect

- *He was driving on the **wrong** side of the road*
- *His version of what happened is **incorrect**.*

Yearly — Annually

- *The magazine is issued twice **yearly**.*
- *The exhibition is held **annually**.*

4.3. Antonyms

Antonym Meaning

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of the other word. For example, good and bad are antonyms of each other.

Opposite Words for Difficult

What is the opposite of difficult?

The antonyms of difficult are:

- Simple
- Basic
- Straightforward
- Effortless
- Docile
- Tame
- Submissive
- Smooth
- Comfortable
- Compliant

Most Common Antonyms

Here are some of the most common antonyms that you should learn about:

Opposite of Improve

- Worsen
- Impair
- Deteriorate

Preceding Antonym

- After
- Concluding
- Consequent
- Following

Opposite Of Kind

- Unkind
- Inconsiderate
- Mean
- Cruel

Opposite Of Lazy

- Active
- Industrious
- Energetic

Antonyms Of Brave

- Cowardly
- Fearful

Opposite Of Confident

- Wavering
- Speculative
- Unsettled

Opposite Of Victim

- Attacker
- Assailant

Opposite Of Heavy

- Light
- Thin
- Whispy

Opposite Of Misogyny

- Philogyny

Opposite Of Optimistic

- Dejected
- Depressed
- Doubtful
- Hopeless

Opposite Of Deep

- Shallow
- High

Opposite Of Humble

- Proud
- Overbearing
- Noble

Opposite Of Benefit

- Detriment
- Disadvantage
- Drawback

Opposite Of Lazy

- Active
- Industrious
- Energetic

Opposite Of Victim

- Attacker
- Assailant

Opposite Of Deep

- Shallow
- High

Opposite Of Humble

- Proud
- Overbearing
- Noble

Opposite Of Heavy

- Light
- Thin
- Whispy

Sweet Opposite Word

- Harsh
- Disagreeable

Opposite Of Wise

- Stupid
- Silly
- Foolish

Opposite Of Misogyny

- Philogyny

Opposite Of Nocturnal

- Diurnal

Opposite Of Wide

- Narrow
- Tight
- Restricted
- Limited

Opposite Of Selfish

- Unselfish
- Selfless
- Altruistic
- Considerate
- Generous

Opposite Of Brave

- Cowardly
- Fearful

Wise Opposite Word

- Stupid
- Silly
- Foolish

Beautiful Opposite Word

- Ugly

Opposite Of Confident

- Insecure
- Unconfident
- Shy
- Unassured

Opposite Of Sharp

- Blunt
- Blurred
- Indistinct

Tall Opposite Word

- Short
- Small
- Low

Preceding Antonym

- Follow
- Succeed

Top 50 Most Difficult Antonyms

Let's start our most difficult antonyms list:

1. Abundant – Scarce

Abundant: *Available in Large Quantities*

Scarce: *Present in insufficient quantity*

The town has an abundant supply of cheap labour.

Food supply was scarce during the world war.

2. Artificial – Natural

Artificial: *Produced by human beings instead of occurring naturally*

Natural: *Not made by humankind, derived from nature*

The zoo authorities are planning to construct an artificial lake in the premises.

With the increasing climate change, we will be facing scarcity in natural resources.

3. Bold – Timid

Bold: *Willingness to take risk, courageous*

Timid: *Easily frightened*

She was bold enough to raise her voice for her rights.

The boy always felt timid and shy with strangers.

4. Intrepid – Cowardly

Intrepid: *Fearless*

Cowardly: *Lacking courage*

Aman's intrepid personality makes him the right fit for a good team leader.

He always knew that running away from home was a cowardly thing to do.

5. Grumpy – Amiable

Grumpy: *Irritable and bad-tempered*

Amiable: *Friendly with pleasant manners*

I feel grumpy when there are too many people around me.

The village locals are sprightly and amiable.

6. Castigate – Praise

Castigate: *Expression of disapproval, Reprimand*

Praise: *Express great approval or admiration*

His grandmother castigated his behaviour towards his parents.

The president praised the valour of the young soldier.

7. Affable – Unfriendly

Affable: *Friendly, lovable, good to talk*

Unfriendly: *Not friendly*

He is an affable fellow, always willing to stop and talk.

I find him aloof and unfriendly.

8. Tranquil – Excitable

Tranquil: *Calm*

Excitable: *Easily excited*

Meditation always helps me feel tranquil and happy.

She is usually the one to calm her excitable partner.

9. Acme – Nadir

Acme: *Something at its best, at the top*

Nadir: *The lowest or the least point in the situation*

The next century brought the empire to its acme of excellence and fame.

The fall of the tower forecasted the nadir of his reign.

10. Boundless – Limited

Boundless: *Unlimited or Immense*

Limited: *Confined or Restricted*

Her boundless ambition ignited the fire of perseverance in her.

His magic is only limited to the immortal world.

Apart from the aforementioned with examples, take a look at some more prominent antonyms given below:

11. Fiendish – Tenderhearted

Fiendish: *Extremely cruel, unpleasant, evil*

Tenderhearted: *Compassionate, Kind, Sympathetic*

12. Bashful – Bold

Bashful: *Reluctant to draw attention to oneself, shy*

Bold: *Confident, Courageous, Take risks*

13. Ephemeral- Longlived

Ephemeral: *Lasting for a very short period of time*

Longlived: *Having an existence for longer duration*

14. Compress – Enlarge

Compress: *Squeeze, Flatten or press*

Enlarge: *More extensive, Larger*

15. Debilitate – Strengthen

Debilitate: *To weaken someone, infirm*

Strengthen: *Make or become stronger*

16. Concise – Lengthy

Concise: *Giving ample information in few words*

Lengthy: *Considerable or usual length*

17. Detrimental – Beneficial

Detrimental: *Tending to cause harm*

Beneficial: *Favourable, advantageous, good*

18. Adulation – Criticism

Adulation: *Excessive admiration or praise*

Criticism: *Expression of disapproval of someone or something*

19. Inception – Conclusion

Inception: *Beginning of something new*

Conclusion: *The finishing or end of an event or process*

20. Eccentric – Ordinary

Eccentric: *A person with or unusual behaviour*

Ordinary: *Normal with no special distinct features*

Check out: [50 Common Difficult Idioms with Examples](#)

21. Authentic – Fake

Authentic: *Genuine, of undisputed origin*

Fake: *Not genuine or imitation*

22. Emancipate – Enslave

Emancipate: *Set free, liberate*

Enslave: *To make some slave, to capture them*

23. Bewitch – Repel

Bewitch: *Enchant or delight someone, being fond of someone*

Repel: *Force something back or away*

24. Precarious – Safe

Precarious: *Not getting a secure hold of the position or likely to fall*

Safe: *Not exposed to danger*

25. Aversion- Liking/Inclination

Aversion: *Hatred or harsh feelings towards someone or something*

Liking/Inclination: *Being fond of something or someone*

26. Fallacious – True

Fallacious: *Untrue, false or based mistaken beliefs*

True: *Accurate of exact*

27. Avarice – Generosity

Avarice: *Extreme greed for wealth*

Generosity: *The quality of being kind and plentiful*

28. Knavish -Virtuous

Knavish: *Dishonest*

Virtuos: *Having or showing high moral standards*

29. Dwindle – Flourish

Dwindle: *Diminish gradually in size or amount*

Flourish: *Grow and develop in a healthy rigorous way*

30. Colossal – Tiny

Colossal: *Extremely large or huge*

Tiny: *Very small*

Also Read: [60 One Word Substitution With Example!](#)

31. Decimate – Construct

Decimate: *Destroy, kill or remove*

Construct: *Build or make something typically building or road*

32. Jabber- Quiet

Jabber: *Talk rapidly, chatter*

Quiet: *Making little or no noise*

33. Foster – Suppress

Foster: *Something desirable*

Suppress: *Forcibly our something to end*

34. Yearn – Loathe

Yearn: *Have an intense feeling of longing for someone or something*

Loathe: *Feeling intense dislike or disgust*

35. Frugal – Extravagant

Frugal: *Sparing or economical*

Extravagant: *Spending money or resources recklessly*

36. Mitigate- Intensify

Mitigate: *To turn something bad into less severe or painful*

Intensify: *Become or make more intense*

37. Perennial – Occasional

Perennial: *Lasting for an infinite period of time*

Occasional: *Occurring or done in irregular intervals of time*

38. Obstinate – Amenable

Obstinate: *Stubborn in one's opinion*

Amenable: *Lovable or Friendly*

39. Agile – Clumsy/Stiff

Agile: *Able to move quickly or easily*

Clumsy/Stiff: *Not easily bend or change in shape*

40. Clemency- Ruthlessness

Clemency: *Mercy or lenience*

Ruthlessness: *Lack of pity or compassion for others*

Also Read: Jumbled Words Questions!

41. Vendetta- Harmony

Vendetta: *A prolonged bitter quarrel*

Harmony: *Pleasant*

42. Adept – Amateur

Adept: *Very skilled or proficient*

Amateur: *Someone who is incompetent or inept for a particular activity*

43. Sanguine – Pessimistic

Sanguine: *Optimistic or positive in difficult condition*

Pessimistic: *Believing that only worst will come out of the situation*

44. Palatable – Tasteless

Palatable: *Pleasant to taste or tasty*

Tasteless: *Lacking in flavour or taste*

45. Arduous – Effortless

Arduous: *Requiring strenuous efforts*

Effortless: *Requiring no mental or physical exertion*

46. Circumscribed – Boundless

Circumscribed: *Restrict something within limits*

Boundless: *Having no boundaries, unlimited*

47. Sedentary – Active

Sedentary: *An inactive person*

Active: *Ready to engage in physically energetic activities*

48. Relish – Apathy

Relish: *Great enjoyment*

Apathy: *Lack of interest or enthusiasm*

49. Dearth – Abundance

Dearth: *Scarcity or lack of something*

Abundance: *Present in an excessive amount*

50. Jeopardy – Safety

Jeopardy: *Danger of loss, failure or harm*

Safety: *The condition of being protected or unlikely to cause danger*

51. Opposite of Kind: Unkind or Cruel

52. Opposite of Lazy: Active

53. Opposite of Victim: Attacker, Assailant

54. Opposite of Nocturnal: Diurnal

55. Opposite of Humble: Proud, Overbearing

56. Opposite of Heavy: Light, Thin, Wispy

57. Opposite of Selfish: Unselfish, Altruistic, Selfless, Kind

58. Opposite of Wise: Stupid, Silly, Foolish

59. Opposite of Wide: Narrow, Tight, Shut

60. Opposite of Confident: Incertain, Diffident, Shy, Unsure, Uncertain, Timid, Incapable

61. Opposite of Sharp: Blunt, Blurred, Indistinct

62. Opposite of Fresh: Stale, Processed, Old, Well-worn

63. Opposite of Peace: Noise, Conflict, Irritation

64. Opposite of Loud: Quiet, Soft

65. Opposite of Polite: Rude, Impolite

66. Opposite of Optimistic: Pessimistic

67. Opposite of Shy: Bold, Brash, Confident
68. Opposite of Freedom: Captivity, Liability
69. Opposite of Tall: Short, Small, Low
70. Opposite of Improve: Worsen, Impair
71. Opposite of Honest: Dishonest, Insincere, Biased
72. Opposite of Dull: Bright, Interesting
73. Opposite of Proud: Ashamed, Concave, Flush
74. Opposite of Progress: Return, Regress
75. Opposite of Narrow: Wide, Broad, Spacious
76. Opposite of Expand: Contract, Shrink, Condense
77. Opposite of Clever: Stupid
78. Opposite of Support: Opposite, Contradict, Undermine
79. Opposite of Bright: Dull, Dark, Stupid
80. Opposite of Early: Late, Overdue
81. Opposite of Innocent: Guilty, Sinful
82. Opposite of Cheap: Costly, Expensive, Admirable
83. Opposite of Quiet: Loud, Public
84. Opposite of Genuine: Bogus
85. Opposite of Strong: Weak, Puny
86. Opposite of Modern: Past, Ancient
87. Opposite of Transparent: Opaque, Cloudy, Thick, Coarse
88. Opposite of Gentle: Harsh, Unkind, Brutal, Strong
89. Opposite of Superior: Inferior, Junior, Worse
90. Opposite of Latter: Former, Prior
91. Opposite of Hope: Fear, Doubt
92. Opposite of Good: Bad, Wicked
93. Opposite of Empathy: Apathy
94. Opposite of Steep: Gentle, Reasonable
95. Opposite of Busy: Idle, Quiet, Unrestrained
96. Opposite of Boring: Interesting
97. Opposite of Foolish: Sensible, Wise

Add a Prefix to Create an Antonym

Phew! This long list of antonyms is surely overwhelming but now let's check out ways how you can easily learn antonyms through prefix:

Add a prefix in- before these words:
Tolerant- intolerant

- Excusable- inexcusable
- Decent- indecent
- Famous- infamous
- Audible- inaudible

Add a prefix dis- before these words:

- Appear- disappear
- Belief- disbelief
- Honest- dishonest
- Pleased- displeased
- Honour- dishonour

Add a prefix mis- before these words:

- Behave- misbehave
- Manage- mismanage
- Interpret- misinterpret
- Conduct- misconduct
- Lead- mislead

4.4. Interchange of Parts of Speech

INTERCHANGE OF PARTS OF SPEECH

The following prefixes or suffixes at the beginning or end of the word determine whether they are Verbs, Nouns, Adjectives or Adverbs.

Examples

Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
en-	-ment	-able	-ly
im-	-ness	-ible	
-es	-tion	-ive	
-ed	-sion	-ful	
-ire/ize	-ance	-al	
-fy	-cy	-ant	
-en	-ity	-ic	
-ate	-th	-ave	
-ish	-ce	-ent	
-dom	-ant		
-ship	-ar		
-hood	-ing		
-er/or	-y		

Some Important words can be changed into all the four forms.

Examples

Verb	Noun	Adjective	Adverb
devote	devotee, devotion	devoted, devotional	devotedly, devotionally
construct	construction	constructive	constructively
harmonised	harmony	harmonious	harmoniously
sensed	sense	sensitive, sensible	sensitively, sensibly
possess	possessions	possessive	possessively
reflect	reflection, reflectiveness	reflective	reflectively
astonished	astonishment	astonishing	astonishingly
integrate	integration	integral	integrally
fancied	fancy	fanciful	fancifully
impose	imposition	imposing	imposingly
bonded	bond	bonded, bonding	bonding
stylized	style	stylish	stylishly
expertise	expertness, expert	expert	expertly
symbolise	symbol	symbolic, symbolical	symbolically

proportioned	proportion	proportionate	proportionately
marvelled	marvel	marvellous	marvellously
architected	architecture	architectural	architecturally
manage	management	manageable	manageably
restrict	restriction	restrictive, restricted	restrictively
directed	direction	direct	directly
excite	excitement	excited	excitedly
form	formation	formative	formatively
speeded, sped	speed	speedy	speedily
exceed	excess	excessive	excessively
confuse	confusion	confusing	confusingly
attract	attraction	attractive	attractively
endanger	danger	dangerous	dangerously
notice	notice	noticeable	noticeably
vary	variation, variety	various	variedly
stressed	stress	stressful	stressfully
economies	economy	economic, economical	economically

relate	relation, relativity	relative	relatively
systematize	system	systematic, systemic	systematically
initiate	initiation	initiative	initiatively
persist	persistence	persistent	persistently
brutalise	brutality	brutal	brutally
include	inclusion	inclusive	inclusively
dirty	dirt	dirty	dirtyly
triumphed	triumph	triumphant	triumphantly
reduce	reduction	reducible, reductive	reducibly, reductively
diminish	diminution	diminishable	diminutively
faced	face	facial	facially
functioned	function, functioning	functioning	functionally
tensed	tension	tensed	tensely
unsustained	unsustainability	unsustainable	unsustainably
tasted	taste, tastefulness	tasty, tasteful	tastefully
remedied	remedy	remedial	remedially
acquiesce	acquiescence	acquiescent	acquiescently

sophisticate	sophistication	sophisticate	sophistically
revere	reverence	reverential	reverentially
obey	obedience	obedient	obediently
regarded	regard	regardful	regardfully
forced	force	forcible	forcibly
depend	dependence	dependent	dependently
secure	security	secured	securely
devote	devotion	devotional	devotionally
suffice	sufficiency	sufficient	sufficiently
authorise	authority	authoritative	authoritatively
define	definition	definite	definitely
compare	comparison	comparative	comparatively
enrich	riches	rich, richer	richly
inform	information	informative	informatively
amazed	amazement	amazing	amazingly
pitied	pity	piteous	piteously
delighted	delight	delightful	delightfully
popularize	popularity	popular	popularly

wondered	wonder	wonderful	wonderfully
expect	expectation	expectant	expectantly
needed	need, needy	needful	needfully
amuse	amusement	amusing	amusingly
lavished	lavishness	lavish	lavishly
believe	belief, believer	believable	believably
particularize	particular, particularity	particular	particularly
sensed	sense	sensible	sensibly
respond	response	responsive	responsively
commune	community	communal	communally
act	action, act	active	actively
brief	brevity	brief	briefly
relate	relevance	relevant	relevantly
completed	completion	complete	completely
practise	practice	practical	practically
mean	meaning	meaningful	meaningfully
express	expression	expressive	expressively
commercialize	commerce	commercial	commercially

conclude	conclusion	conclusive	conclusively
necessitate	necessity	necessary	necessarily
spirited	spirit	spiritual	spiritually
focused	focus	focal	focally
create	creation, creator	creative	creatively
visualise	vision, visionary	visual	visually
tortured	torture	torturous	torturously
warmed	warmth	warm	warmly
energies	energy	energetic	energetically
famed	fame	famous	famously
specify	specification	specific, specifiable	specifically
sympathise	sympathy	sympathetic	sympathetically
compose	composer	composed	composedly
figured	figure	figurative	figuratively
observe	observance	observable	observably
relate	relationship	relative	relatively
fascinate	fascination	fascinating	fascinatingly
engage	engagement	engaging	engagingly

entertain	entertainment	entertaining	entertainingly
clear	clarity	clear	clearly
loved	love	lovable	lovingly
think	thought	thoughtful	thoughtfully
decide	decision	decisive	decisively
appreciate	appreciation	appreciative	appreciatively
feared	fear	fearful	fearfully

UNIT V GRAMMAR AND USAGE II

5.1. Diminutives

Diminutives refers to the words which are used to indicate the sound or describe the object in question is in fact 'small'. A diminutive is created by the addition of a prefix or suffix to the word. This word has a Latin origin. They are used to refer to young ones of animals and as subjectively as a term of endearment.

Some of the common prefixes that are used to make a word diminutive are:

- Micro
- Mini
- Nano

Examples with the above prefixes are microscope, microprocessor, microchip, miniskirt, minilab, nanometre, nanosecond etc.

Some of the common suffixes which are used to make a word diminutive are:

- -ette
- -ine
- -ish
- -let
- -ling
- -ock
- -y

Examples of the above suffix to words are tambourine, cigarette, leaflet, duckling, buttock, yellowy, nestling, tallish, billy, tommy, etc.

4.2. Substitution of a Group of Words by a Single Word

ist of One Word Substitutions – 1

Words for various fields of study

Phrase	One Word
Printing using a stone or a metal plate with a completely smooth surface	Lithography
Mapping of earth and its formation	Geography
Art related to ornate, good handwriting	Calligraphy
Scientific study of bodily diseases	Pathology
Study of birds	Ornithology
Study of celestial bodies	Astronomy
Study of collection of coins, tokens, paper money etc.	Numismatics
Study of earth and rocks	Geology
Study of election trends	Psephology

Study of flying aero planes	Aviation
Study of handwriting	Graphology
Study of hereditary, genes and variation in living organisms	Genetics
Study of human development	Anthropology
Study of languages	Philology
Study of living things	Biology
Study of religion	Theology
Study of science of insects	Entomology
Study of sound and sound waves	Acoustics
Study of the influence of planets and stars on human events	Astrology
Study of the law of the flow of water and other liquids	Hydraulics
Study of the relation between the organism and their environment	Ecology
Study of various aspects of aging	Gerontology
The science of time order	Chronology
Study of religion	Theology
The science of human development	Anthropology

List of One Word Substitutions – 2

Words used for experts and people with various qualities, habits and abilities.

Phrase	One Word
One with unlimited power	Autocrat
One who walks on ropes	Funambulist
An expert in writing by hand	Chirographer
The doctor who attends to child delivery	Obstetrician

The doctor who attends to corns in the feet and hands	Chiropodist
The doctor who deals with the female reproductive system	Gynecologist
The doctor who specializes in root canal and nerve treatment	Endodontist
The doctor who straightens teeth	Orthodontist
The doctor who treats bone problems	Orthopedician
The doctor who treats eye diseases	Ophthalmologist
The doctor who treats gums	Perodontist
The doctor who treats heart problems	Cardiologist
The doctor who treats skin diseases	Dermatologist
One who is all powerful	Omnipotent
One who is all knowing	Omniscient
One who is present all over	Omnipresent
One who can throw his voice	Ventriloquist
One who talks while sleeping	Somniloquist
One who takes part in dialogue or conversation	Interlocutor
One who walks in sleep	Somnambulist
One who walks at night	Noctambulist
One who is violently against established beliefs and traditions	Iconoclast
One who turns his thoughts inwards	Introvert
One who turns his thoughts outwards	Extrovert
One who is both inwards and outwards at times	Ambivert
One who demands strict conformity to rules	Martinet
One who believes in ruthless self-aggrandizement	Egoist

One who doesn't consume alcohol	Teetotaler
One who exhibits courage or fearlessness	Intrepid
One who easily believes others	Credulous
One who is capable of using both hands	Ambidextrous
One who knows a lot about good food and wine	Connoisseur
One who is beyond reform	Incorrigible
Well known for bad qualities	Notorious
Perfectly, highly skilled reached the zenith of art	Consummate
A shrewish loud-mouthed female	Virago
One who is extravagantly romantic, chivalrous and impractical	Quixotic

List of One Word Substitutions – 3

Words used for various likes and dislikes.

Phrase	One Word
One who is a boot licker, flatterer	Sycophant
One who has keen interest in food and drinks	Gourmet
Love for mankind	Philanthropy
Someone who loves collecting books	Bibliophile
One who loves and admires the British	Anglophile
One who loves without seriousness	Philanderer
Fondness towards women	Philogyny
One who loves men	Androphile
One who loves wisdom (hence pursues it)	Philosopher
One who hates men	Misandrist

Madness or obsession with males	Andromania
One who hates women	Misogynist
One who hates mankind	Misanthropist
One who loves his country	Patriot
Excessive love for one's country	Super patriotism
One who hates marriage	Misogamist
One who loves to speak	Loquacious
Strong, deep dislike	Antipathy
Simultaneously affected by similar feelings	Sympathy
Mentally identifying oneself with other person or a thing	Empathy
Something or someone makes you feel deep sadness or pity	Pathetic

List of One Word Substitutions – 4

Words used for practices & beliefs related to religion, marriage and family.

Phrase	One Word
Related to marriage	Matrimony
One who believes in the presence of God	Theist
One who doesn't believe in the presence of God	Atheist
One who believes in the theory of only one God	Monotheist
One who believes in many Gods	Polytheist
One who believes that God is union of all forces of the universe	Pantheist
Religious madness	Theomania
Battle among the Gods	Theomachy
Practicing only one marriage (having only one wife)	Monogamy

Practicing two marriages (having two wives)	Bigamy
Practice of several marriages (having many wives)	Polygamy
Self-fertilization especially in plants	Autogamy
Marriage within one's own tribe	Endogamy
Marriage outside one's tribe	Exogamy
Having several husbands	Polyandry
People who have both male and female sexual organs	Hermaphrodite
An inheritance from father	Patrimony
A name framed after father's name	Patronymic
Fatherhood	Paternity
A father-like figure	Patriarch

List of One Word Substitutions – 5

Words used for various systems of governance.

Phrase	One Word
Government by one person (royal)	Monarchy
Government by two agencies	Diarchy
Government by a few powerful people	Oligarchy
Government by military class	Stratocracy
Government by divine guidance	Theocracy
Government by departments of state	Bureaucracy
Government by nobility	Aristocracy
Government by wealthy	Plutocracy
Government by the people	Democracy

A system of governing a country suggesting a father-child relation	Paternalism
Government by one absolutely	Autocracy
Absence of government	Anarchy
A system ruled or controlled by men	Patriarchy
The rule or control of mother	Matriarchy
Self-rule or control	Autonomy

List of One Word Substitutions – 6

Words used for various kinds of killings and manias.

Phrase	One Word
The killing of one's husband	Mariticide
The killing of parents	Parricide
The killing of a whole race	Genocide
The killing of a new born child	Infanticide
The killing of a king	Regicide
The killing of a human being	Homicide
The killing of oneself	Suicide
The killing of a father	Patricide
The killing of a mother	Matricide
The killing of one's brother	Fratricide
The killing of one's sister	Sororicide
The killing of one's wife	Uxoricide
Morbid compulsion to keep on consuming alcohol	Dipsomania
Morbid compulsion to steal	Kleptomania

Morbid compulsion to steal books	Bibliokleptomania
Morbid compulsion to start a fire	Pyromania
Morbid delusion of power, importance or godliness	Megalomania
Morbid, uncontrollable desire on the part of a woman	Nymphomania
Morbid, uncontrollable desire on the part of a man	Satyromania
Person with one-track mind	Monomania
Compulsion to tell lies	Mythomania
Madness with obsession with something	Mania

List of One Word Substitutions – 7

Words related to speech and written works.

Phrase	One Word
Book containing all the published work of an author	Omnibus
A written message from far off place	Telegraph
Informal, less grammatically rigid language	Colloquial
Talking around, a method of talking indirectly	Circumlocution
Generous, forgiving talk	Magniloquent
Expressive in the use of words	Eloquent
High sounding pompous speech or writing	Grandiloquent
A signature of a celebrity (signature of oneself)	Autograph
Walk before hand or an introductory statement	Preamble
Writing of one's life story	Biography
Writing of one's own life story	Autobiography
Written by light	Photograph

Few words packed with meaning, concise	Laconic
A speech to oneself, alone	Soliloquy

List of One Word Substitutions – 8

Words related to specific type of things, events and places.

Phrase	One Word
A place for sun to enter where one can sunbath	Solarium
A glass container in which fish and other water animals can be kept	Aquarium
A place for feet or speaker's platform	Podium
The part of a theatre where people who are watching and listening sit	Auditorium
An optical device for projecting various celestial images and effects	Planetarium
An establishment for the treatment of the chronically ill	Sanatorium
A place where objects are exhibited	Museum
Trees whose leaves fall every autumn	Deciduous
That which falls upon, befalls, happens	Incident
That which falls to someone or something	Accident
That which falls on the western countries	Occidental
The school or college one attends	Alma Mater
A self-moving vehicle	Automobile
A machine that functions by itself	Automatic
A baby carriage	Perambulator
A carriage for sick people	Ambulance

List of One Word Substitutions – 9

Words used for various kinds of food eaters and eating habits.

Phrase	One Word
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Living on all	Omnivorous
Living on fruits	Frugivorous
One who eat only fruits	Fruitarian
One who eats no animal flesh	Vegetarian
One who feeds on human flesh	Cannibal
One who enjoys food with a sensual pleasure	Gourmand
One whose eating habit is repulsive	Glutton
Living on flesh	Carnivorous
Living on grass	Herbivorous
Living on fish	Piscivorous
One who eats all kinds of food	Omnivorous

List of One Word Substitutions – 10

Words related to certain actions, time and direction.

Phrase	One Word
A backward look or a view into the past	Retrospect
A forward look or a view into future	Prospect
Examine one's motives or look inwards	Introspect
To examine carefully	Inspect
A doubtful look or examination of one's motives	Suspect
Careful, cautious watch on surroundings	Circumspect
To walk aimlessly	Amble
When two things befall together	Coincident
A thing occurring again and again for a long time	Chronic

Someone or something out of time	Anachronism
To send out of one's native country	Expatriate
To walk around a place especially in a ritual fashion	Circumambulate
A highly accurate timepiece	Chronometer
Make to happen at the same time	Synchronize
An instrument which records short intervals of time	Chronograph
Capable of moving in all directions	Omnidirectional



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