Name _____ Date _____

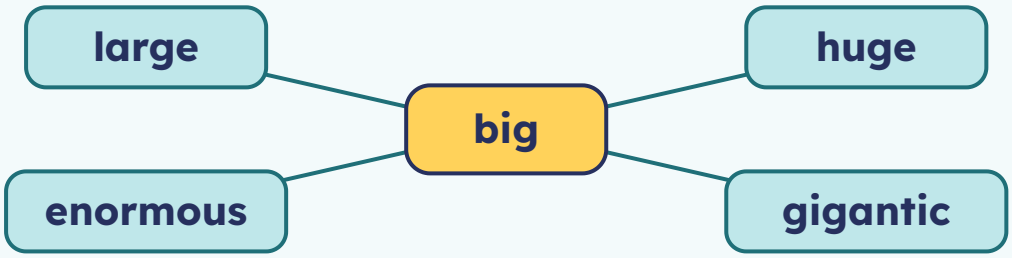
Similar meanings

A **synonym** is a word with the same or nearly the same meaning as another word.

1 Learn



Writers use synonyms so they don't repeat the same word, and to find the word that says **exactly** what they mean.



All of these mean **of great size**, so they are **synonyms** of **big**.

Let's do one: find a synonym for happy in "Mia was happy with her test result."

1. Ask what the word means here: **feeling good** about something.

2. Think of words with that meaning: **pleased**, glad, delighted. (Not *smile*: that's linked to happy, but it doesn't mean the same.)

3. Test the swap: "Mia was **pleased** with her test result." Same meaning, so **pleased** is a synonym.

Flip's tip: always do the **swap test**. Put the new word in the sentence. If the meaning stays the same and the sentence still makes sense, you've found a synonym.

Warm up: write one synonym for each word.

small _____ **quick** _____ **begin** _____ **angry** _____

Grown-ups: synonyms are rarely perfect matches, so "nearly the same" is fine. Encourage your child to say each new word in the sentence aloud before deciding.

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Tired words

You need: any book or comic, some scraps of paper and two pencils.

1. Open the book at any page. Find a "tired" word that's used a lot: **said**, **nice**, **good**, **big** or **went**.
2. Each of you writes as many synonyms for it as you can, one per scrap, until you run out of ideas.
3. Put all your scraps together. Read the sentence from the book with each one swapped in. Which still make sense?
4. Choose the best one for that sentence and write it in the table. Then pick another tired word.

Tired word	Synonyms we found	Best for the sentence

Grown-ups: talk about why some synonyms don't fit: "whispered" and "shouted" are both synonyms of "said", but they change how the line sounds. That's the start of Chapter 4.

3 Practise

A. Draw a line to join each word to its synonym.

shout	fast
brave	minute
rapid	yell
miserable	courageous
tiny	sad

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B. Draw a ring round the **odd one out**: the word that is **not** a synonym of the others.

1. **cheerful** **glad** **smile** **joyful**
2. **chilly** **cold** **warm** **freezing**
3. **look** **glance** **eye** **peer**
4. **weary** **energetic** **exhausted** **tired**

C. Rewrite each sentence. Swap the underlined word for a synonym.

1. The castle was **ancient**.

_____

2. Ava **grabbed** her coat and ran outside.

_____

3. The **clever** fox found a way across the river.

_____

D. Write three synonyms for **said**.

_____ _____ _____

Challenge

Leo says, "**Smile** is a synonym of **happy**, because when you're happy you smile." Is he right? Explain.

_____

_____

_____

I can...

Tick when you can.

- ☐ explain that a synonym has the same or nearly the same meaning
- ☐ find synonyms for a word, like big, large and huge
- ☐ use the swap test to check a synonym in a sentence