11+ ENGLISH · VOCABULARY

50 Tricky 11+ Words

Meanings, example sentences, synonyms and antonyms, then a quiz to test yourself. Answers included.



Starberry Nova: Big words win big marks in 11+ synonym, antonym and comprehension questions. And they make you sound very fancy.

abundant — adjective

existing in large amounts

"Blackberries were abundant along the hedge in September."

Same: plentiful **Opposite:** scarce

adversary — noun

an enemy or opponent

"The chess champion shook hands with her adversary before the match."

Same: rival **Opposite:** ally

ambiguous — adjective

having more than one possible meaning

"The ambiguous instructions left the whole class confused."

Same: unclear **Opposite:** definite

apprehensive — adjective

worried that something bad will happen

"Sam felt apprehensive before his first swimming gala."

Same: uneasy **Opposite:** confident

arduous — adjective

very difficult and tiring

"The arduous climb to the summit took all afternoon."

Same: gruelling **Opposite:** effortless

benevolent — adjective

kind, generous and wanting to help

"A benevolent neighbour mowed our lawn every week."

Same: charitable **Opposite:** cruel

Words 7 to 18

learn 5 a day

candid
adjective

honest and direct

"Grandma gave a candid opinion of my new haircut."

Same: frank **Opposite:** secretive

cautious
adjective

careful to avoid danger or mistakes

"The cautious cat sniffed the box before stepping inside."

Same: careful **Opposite:** reckless

conceal
verb

to hide something

"He tried to conceal the broken vase behind the curtain."

Same: hide **Opposite:** reveal

consequence
noun

a result of an action

"Missing the bus had one consequence: a very long walk."

Same: outcome **Opposite:** cause

contemplate
verb

to think about something carefully

"She sat by the window to contemplate her next move."

Same: ponder **Opposite:** ignore

courteous
adjective

polite and respectful

"The courteous waiter held the door open for us."

Same: gracious **Opposite:** rude

deceive
verb

to make someone believe something untrue

"The fox tried to deceive the crow with flattery."

Same: mislead **Opposite:** enlighten

diligent
adjective

working hard and carefully

"A diligent student checks every answer before handing in."

Same: industrious **Opposite:** lazy

dismal
adjective

gloomy and miserable

"The dismal weather kept us indoors all weekend."

Same: dreary **Opposite:** cheerful

eager
adjective

keen and excited to do something

"The eager puppy waited by the door for its walk."

Same: enthusiastic **Opposite:** unwilling

elated
adjective

extremely happy and excited

"Maya was elated when she scored the winning goal."

Same: overjoyed **Opposite:** dejected

eloquent
adjective

speaking or writing clearly and persuasively

"Her eloquent speech persuaded the council to save the park."

Same: articulate **Opposite:** inarticulate



Starberry Nova: I'm not 'timid', I'm just 'strategically shy'. There's a difference.

Words 19 to 30

learn 5 a day

endeavour — verb

to try very hard to do something

"We will endeavour to finish the model before the fair."

Same: strive **Opposite:** neglect

exasperated — adjective

very annoyed and frustrated

"The exasperated teacher asked for silence a third time."

Same: infuriated **Opposite:** calm

feeble — adjective

weak and lacking strength

"The feeble kitten could barely lift its head."

Same: frail **Opposite:** strong

fragile — adjective

easily broken or damaged

"Wrap the fragile teacups in newspaper before packing."

Same: delicate **Opposite:** sturdy

frugal — adjective

careful not to waste money or food

"My frugal uncle reuses every scrap of wrapping paper."

Same: thrifty **Opposite:** extravagant

gregarious — adjective

enjoying the company of other people

"Gregarious Leo chatted to everyone at the party."

Same: sociable **Opposite:** solitary

hostile — adjective

unfriendly and aggressive

"The guard dog gave the postman a hostile stare."

Same: antagonistic **Opposite:** welcoming

immense — adjective

extremely large

"An immense whale surfaced beside the little boat."

Same: enormous **Opposite:** tiny

impartial — adjective

fair and not taking sides

"The referee must stay impartial throughout the match."

Same: neutral **Opposite:** biased

indignant — adjective

angry about something that seems unfair

"Ella was indignant when she was blamed for the mess."

Same: resentful **Opposite:** content

inevitable — adjective

certain to happen

"With dark clouds overhead, rain seemed inevitable."

Same: unavoidable **Opposite:** uncertain

jubilant — adjective

full of joy, especially after a success

"The jubilant fans sang all the way home."

Same: triumphant **Opposite:** despondent



Starberry Nova: Use a new word at dinner tonight. 'This pasta is ABUNDANT.' Watch everyone stare.

Words 31 to 42

learn 5 a day

lethargic
adjective

sleepy and lacking energy

"After the huge lunch, everyone felt lethargic."

Same: sluggish **Opposite:** energetic

meagre
adjective

small in amount and not enough

"The travellers shared a meagre meal of bread and water."

Same: scant **Opposite:** generous

meticulous
adjective

very careful about every detail

"Ravi kept meticulous notes on every experiment."

Same: thorough **Opposite:** careless

novice
noun

a beginner at something

"As a novice skier, I spent most of the day sitting in the snow."

Same: learner **Opposite:** expert

obstinate
adjective

refusing to change your mind

"The obstinate donkey would not move an inch."

Same: stubborn **Opposite:** flexible

ominous
adjective

suggesting that something bad will happen

"An ominous rumble came from deep inside the cave."

Same: threatening **Opposite:** promising

perplexed
adjective

confused and unable to understand

"Dad looked perplexed by the new remote control."

Same: baffled **Opposite:** certain

persevere
verb

to keep trying even when it is difficult

"If you persevere with the piano, you will improve."

Same: persist **Opposite:** quit

placid
adjective

calm and not easily upset

"The placid lake reflected the mountains perfectly."

Same: tranquil **Opposite:** agitated

prosperous
adjective

successful and wealthy

"The market town grew prosperous from the wool trade."

Same: thriving **Opposite:** poor

reluctant
adjective

unwilling to do something

"Tom was reluctant to leave the warm bed on a cold morning."

Same: hesitant **Opposite:** willing

resilient
adjective

able to recover quickly from difficulties

"The resilient plant grew back after the frost."

Same: tough **Opposite:** fragile



Starberry Nova: My vocabulary is immense. My bowl of strawberries is, sadly, meagre.

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Words 43 to 50

learn 5 a day

scarce
adjective

in short supply and hard to find

"Fresh water was scarce on the tiny island."

Same: rare **Opposite:** plentiful

serene
adjective

calm and peaceful

"The garden looked serene in the early morning mist."

Same: peaceful **Opposite:** turbulent

sombre
adjective

dark, serious or sad

"The sombre music matched the grey November sky."

Same: solemn **Opposite:** jolly

tedious
adjective

long, slow and boring

"Copying out the long list was a tedious task."

Same: monotonous **Opposite:** exciting

timid
adjective

shy and easily frightened

"The timid mouse darted back into its hole."

Same: bashful **Opposite:** bold

vacant
adjective

empty and not being used

"The house on the corner has been vacant for months."

Same: unoccupied **Opposite:** occupied

vivid
adjective

very bright, clear or strong

"She painted a vivid sunset of orange and pink."

Same: intense **Opposite:** dull

zealous
adjective

very keen and committed to something

"The zealous gardener was weeding before breakfast."

Same: passionate **Opposite:** apathetic

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Test yourself!

Score: ____ / 30

Part A: Which word means the SAME?

1. inevitable

A unavoidable | B uneasy | C mislead | D unclear

2. ominous

A threatening | B triumphant | C unavoidable | D frail

3. jubilant

A frail | B triumphant | C stubborn | D peaceful

4. zealous

A solemn | B thorough | C infuriated | D passionate

5. meticulous

A intense | B thorough | C thrifty | D strive

6. persevere

A thriving | B persist | C gruelling | D rival

7. deceive

A neutral | B mislead | C gruelling | D frail

8. courteous

A enthusiastic | B uneasy | C thorough | D gracious

9. tedious

A resentful | B monotonous | C persist | D charitable

10. lethargic

A sluggish | B charitable | C sociable | D infuriated



Starberry Nova: Same meaning = synonym. Like 'strawberry' and 'the best fruit ever'.

Part B: Which word means the OPPOSITE?

11. prosperous

A cause | B dejected | C poor | D reveal

12. scarce

A enlighten | B careless | C plentiful | D flexible

13. candid

A uncertain | B cause | C dull | D secretive

14. timid

A uncertain | B unwilling | C bold | D scarce

15. exasperated

A lazy | B ally | C rude | D calm

16. consequence

A cheerful | B definite | C ignore | D cause

17. benevolent

A solitary | B strong | C fragile | D cruel

18. ambiguous

A poor | B definite | C secretive | D cheerful

19. immense

A welcoming | B tiny | C generous | D fragile

20. reluctant

A willing | B poor | C biased | D ignore



Professor Hoot: Antonyms are opposites. Cover the word list, then try. No peeking!

Part C: Choose the word that fits the gap.

21. The _____ weather kept us indoors all weekend.

A dismal | B feeble | C reluctant | D eager

22. The _____ kitten could barely lift its head.

A contemplate | B feeble | C placid | D sombre

23. _____ Leo chatted to everyone at the party.

A prosperous | B benevolent | C meagre | D gregarious

24. She painted a _____ sunset of orange and pink.

A vivid | B ambiguous | C candid | D meticulous

25. Dad looked _____ by the new remote control.

A reluctant | B eloquent | C indignant | D perplexed

26. As a _____ skier, I spent most of the day sitting in the snow.

A conceal | B vacant | C novice | D arduous

27. The referee must stay _____ throughout the match.

A vivid | B diligent | C impartial | D eloquent

28. Blackberries were _____ along the hedge in September.

A lethargic | B elated | C abundant | D inevitable

29. Maya was _____ when she scored the winning goal.

A perplexed | B elated | C feeble | D immense

30. The _____ plant grew back after the frost.

A resilient | B conceal | C immense | D novice



Starberry Nova: Part C is the trickiest. If you got it, you're basically a walking dictionary. A walking, talking, strawberry-loving dictionary.

Answers

for grown-ups

1) A (unavoidable) **2)** A (threatening) **3)** B (triumphant) **4)** D (passionate) **5)** B (thorough) **6)** B (persist) **7)** B (mislead) **8)** D (gracious) **9)** B (monotonous) **10)** A (sluggish) **11)** C (poor) **12)** C (plentiful) **13)** D (secretive) **14)** C (bold) **15)** D (calm) **16)** D (cause) **17)** D (cruel) **18)** B (definite) **19)** B (tiny) **20)** A (willing) **21)** A (dismal) **22)** B (feeble) **23)** D (gregarious) **24)** A (vivid) **25)** D (perplexed) **26)** C (novice) **27)** C (impartial) **28)** C (abundant) **29)** B (elated) **30)** A (resilient)



Professor Hoot: Make flashcards: the word on the front, the meaning and a sentence on the back. Test yourself in the car!



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