

A TEXT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
of
ENGLISH VOCABULARY

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1. SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have the same meaning or comparable meaning. Words like **kind** and **compassionate** are similar in meaning and hence can be called synonyms. Some words are not exactly similar but are close in meaning and hence are sometimes or in certain situations used as synonyms. For example **wide** and **broad**.

A word can have more than one meaning. For example the word relative:

- a) I am staying with my **relative**. (Relation)
- b) Weight is not always **relative** to height. (In comparison to)

The meaning of the words can be known in isolation but as we can see from the example given above, the best way to determine the meaning of a word is from the context in which it is used.

A **dictionary** is of immense help in learning synonyms. It gives the different meanings of words with examples. It is the book to turn to when one encounters a unfamiliar word. A **thesaurus** is also extremely profitable for it gives us an idea of all the related words though not all of them are synonyms.

Improvement of vocabulary inevitably begins with synonyms. Here are some of the ways in which you can learn Synonyms.

Worksheet 1- 5

A list of words is given below and their meanings are jumbled. Match the words on the left with their meanings on the right. The first one is done for you.

Worksheet 1

I. Match the following words with their meanings

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Enigma | a) Deceiving people in a clever way to get what you want |
| 2. Cajole | b) Silent |
| 3. Tacit | c) A book with a list of all goods |

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 4. Wreak | d) An executive order that stops or delays punishment |
| 5. Uncouth | e) Not obvious |
| 6. Subtle | f) A puzzle |
| 7. Sly | g) A view of a wide area |
| 8. Reprieve | h) To destroy something badly |
| 9. Catalogue | i) To coax |
| 10. Panorama | j) Behaving in a rude way |

Worksheet 2

II. Match the following words with their meanings

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Paradox | a) Attract |
| 2. Debonair | b) To calculate an amount |
| 3. Allure | c) Basic |
| 4. Morose | d) A drug that limits the effects of poison |
| 5. Oasis | e) To know something before it happens |
| 6. Antidote | f) To put something in danger |
| 7. Jeopardize | g) A statement that means contradictory |
| 8. Gauge | h) Gloomy |
| 9. Foresee | i) Elegant |
| 10. Elementary | j) A place in the desert where there is water |

Worksheet 3

III. Match the following words with their meanings

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Marvelous | a) A still existing small part |
| 2. Negotiate | b) Short form of a text |
| 3. Jovial | c) Being done by someone whose name is not known |
| 4. Précis | d) Being done intentionally |
| 5. Spontaneous | e) In a good mood |
| 6. Trespass | f) Set of rules that govern social behavior |
| 7. Vestige | g) Extremely good |