

SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

SSC CGL English Preparation

Introduction to Synonyms & Antonyms

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings, while antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. Mastering synonyms and antonyms is crucial for vocabulary building and scoring well in SSC CGL English section.

Key Definitions:

Synonyms: Words with similar meanings

Example: Happy - Joyful, Delighted, Pleased

Antonyms: Words with opposite meanings

Example: Happy - Sad, Unhappy, Miserable

Typical SSC CGL Question Patterns:

Format 1: Find the word most similar in meaning to the given word

Format 2: Find the word most opposite in meaning to the given word

Format 3: Choose the correct synonym/antonym from options

Skills Tested: Vocabulary, word knowledge, contextual understanding

Approach to Synonyms & Antonyms:

- 1 Understand the exact meaning of the given word
- 2 Consider the context if provided
- 3 Eliminate obviously wrong options
- 4 Choose the word with closest/opposite meaning
- 5 Verify your choice by checking definitions

Important Word Categories

1. Commonly Confused Synonyms

Beautiful

Synonyms: Pretty, Lovely, Gorgeous, Stunning, Attractive

Antonyms: Ugly, Unattractive, Hideous, Plain

Intelligent

Synonyms: Smart, Clever, Brilliant, Wise, Knowledgeable

Antonyms: Stupid, Foolish, Ignorant, Unintelligent

2. Words with Multiple Meanings

Light

Synonyms: Bright, Illuminated, Pale, Weightless

Antonyms: Dark, Heavy, Serious, Substantial

Current

Synonyms: Present, Contemporary, Flow, Trend

Antonyms: Past, Previous, Static, Obsolete

Word	Synonyms	Antonyms
Abundant	Plentiful, Copious, Ample	Scarce, Limited, Sparse
Benevolent	Kind, Generous, Charitable	Cruel, Mean, Malevolent
Courageous	Brave, Bold, Fearless	Cowardly, Timid, Fearful
Diligent	Hardworking, Industrious, Conscientious	Lazy, Negligent, Careless
Eloquent	Articulate, Fluent, Expressive	Inarticulate, Tongue-tied, Mute

3. SSC CGL Frequently Asked Words

Synonyms Group 1

Magnanimous - Generous

Pragmatic - Practical

Voracious - Ravenous

Benevolent - Kind

Synonyms Group 2

Ephemeral - Temporary

Lethargic - Sluggish

Profound - Deep

Resilient - Flexible

Antonyms Group 1

Amicable - Hostile

Benevolent - Malevolent

Candid - Deceptive

Diligent - Lazy

4. Words from Previous SSC Exams

Year	Word	Synonyms	Antonyms
2023	Ubiquitous	Omnipresent, Everywhere	Rare, Scarce
2022	Pernicious	Harmful, Destructive	Beneficial, Harmless
2021	Magnanimous	Generous, Noble	Selfish, Mean
2020	Voracious	Ravenous, Insatiable	Moderate, Satisfied

Learning Strategies

Root Words

Learn Greek and Latin roots to understand word formations and meanings.

Word Families

Group related words together for better retention and understanding.

Contextual Learning

Learn words in sentences and contexts rather than isolated definitions.

Regular Revision

Use flashcards and spaced repetition for long-term retention.

Memory Techniques:

Mnemonic Devices

Create associations: "Benevolent Ben" who is always kind

Word Roots

"Bene" = good (Benevolent, Benefit)

"Mal" = bad (Malevolent, Malicious)

Visual Association

Create mental images for difficult words to remember them better.

Common Word Roots and Their Meanings:

- **Bene** - Good (Benevolent, Benefit)
- **Mal** - Bad (Malevolent, Malicious)
- **Ambi** - Both (Ambiguous, Ambidextrous)
- **Anti** - Against (Antonym, Antisocial)
- **Circum** - Around (Circumnavigate, Circumstance)
- **Contra** - Against (Contradict, Contrary)

Contextual Understanding:

Word: Magnanimous

Meaning: Generous or forgiving, especially toward a rival or less powerful person

Sentence: "The magnanimous winner congratulated his opponent."

Synonyms: Generous, Benevolent, Noble

Antonyms: Petty, Mean-spirited, Selfish

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Synonyms

1. Find the synonym of **ABUNDANT**:

(A) Scarce

(B) Plentiful

(C) Limited

(D) Rare

2. Find the synonym of **BENEVOLENT**:

(A) Cruel

(B) Kind

(C) Mean

(D) Selfish

3. Find the synonym of **EPHEMERAL**:

(A) Permanent

(B) Temporary

(C) Eternal

(D) Lasting

Exercise 2: Antonyms

1. Find the antonym of **AMICABLE**:

(A) Hostile

(B) Friendly

(C) Cordial

(D) Pleasant

2. Find the antonym of **DILIGENT**:

(A) Hardworking

(B) Lazy

(C) Industrious

(D) Conscientious

3. Find the antonym of **MAGNANIMOUS**:

(A) Generous

(B) Selfish

(C) Noble

(D) Benevolent

Exercise 3: SSC CGL Pattern Questions

Direction: In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the given word.

1. **VORACIOUS**

(A) Moderate

(B) Ravenous

(C) Satisfied

(D) Limited

2. **PERNICIOUS**

(A) Beneficial

(B) Harmful

(C) Helpful

(D) Wholesome

Direction: In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the given word.

3. **UBIQUITOUS**

(A) Omnipresent

(B) Rare

(C) Everywhere

(D) Universal

4. **RESILIENT**

(A) Flexible

(B) Fragile

(C) Strong

(D) Tough

Exam Tips for Synonyms & Antonyms

Time Management

Spend 20-30 seconds per question. If unsure, mark and move on.

Elimination Method

Eliminate options you know are wrong to improve guessing accuracy.

Root Words

Use knowledge of word roots to decipher unfamiliar words.

Previous Papers

Study previous years' questions as many words repeat.

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- Confusing synonyms with antonyms
- Choosing words that sound similar but have different meanings
- Not considering the context when provided
- Rushing without reading all options carefully
- Forgetting common word roots and prefixes

Quick Revision - Must Know Words:

Ubiquitous - Present everywhere

Pernicious - Harmful

Magnanimous - Generous

Voracious - Ravenous

Ephemeral - Temporary

Resilient - Flexible

Benevolent - Kind

Malevolent - Evil

Amicable - Friendly

Diligent - Hardworking

Lethargic - Sluggish

Profound - Deep

Final Preparation Strategy:

- 1 Learn 10-15 new words daily
- 2 Create flashcards for difficult words
- 3 Practice with previous year papers
- 4 Focus on word roots and prefixes
- 5 Revise regularly using spaced repetition
- 6 Take mock tests for time management