

Categories of Antonyms

Examples	Examples	Examples
Graded Antonyms – Express relationships along a continuum		
fat and skinny	young and old	happy and sad
hard and soft	last and first	foolish and wise
fast and slow	warm and cool	wide and narrow
abundant and scarce	joy and grief	dark and light
dangerous and safe	clever and foolish	early and late
empty and full	smart and dumb	risky and safe
bad and good	pretty and ugly	best and worst
simple and challenging	soft and hard	worried and calm
sane and crazy	rich and poor	cool and hot
wet and dry	late and early	ignorant and educated
big and small	optimistic and pessimistic	excited and bored
Complementary Antonyms – Express two opposite possibilities		
man or woman	push or pull	dead or alive
day or night	absent or present	exit or entrance
sink or float	true or false	pass or fail
input or output	interior or exterior	exhale or inhale
occupied or vacant	leave or arrive	pre or post

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Complementary Antonyms (con't) – Express two opposite possibilities		
question or answer	single or married	hired or fired
crooked or straight	identical or different	natural or artificial
silence or noise	identical or different	yes or no
wet or dry	sharp or dull	fantasy or reality
Relational Antonyms – A relationship results in two opposite possibilities		
husband and wife	doctor and patient	buy and sell
predator and prey	above and below	former and later
give and receive	teach and learn	instructor and pupil
servant and master	borrow and lend	come and go
toward and away	divisor and dividend	parent and child
east and west	north and south	seller and buyer
brother and sister	mother and daughter	slave and master
floor and ceiling	front and back	up and down
raise and lower	win and lose	part and whole
offense and defense	behind and after	on and off
trap and release	lost and found	left and right
give and get	employer and employee	customer and supplier