Smart Cub Learning

11+ TOPIC PACK

Synonyms and Antonyms

English

60 questions from warm-up to exam level, with worked solutions

SAMPLE

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How to do it

A synonym is a word that means the same, or nearly the same, as another word. Big and huge are synonyms. An antonym is a word that means the opposite. Big and tiny are antonyms. Knowing many words helps you in every test.

ENG

Learn the method

1. Read the question. Does it ask for the closest meaning or the opposite meaning? Underline the key word. This book mixes both kinds.
2. Say the word in a short sentence of your own, such as: The weary walkers sat down. Listen for what the word means.
3. If you do not know the word, look for clues. A prefix is a group of letters at the start of a word. Un-, dis-, im- and il- often mean not, as in unkind or dishonest. Mis- means wrongly, as in misspell.
4. Test each option in your sentence. Cross out words that have nothing to do with it. Be careful with words on the same topic. A hill and a summit both go with mountains, but a summit is only the very top.
5. For opposite questions, one option often means the same as the word. It is a trap, so cross it out. Check your answer by saying: these two words mean the same, or these two words are opposites.

Worked example 1

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word in capitals.

GIFT

A jug **B** present **C** saucer **D** kettle

How to work it out

1. Gift means something you give to someone, like a present.
2. “present” means almost the same as “gift”.
3. Test it in a sentence: swap “present” for “gift”. The meaning stays the same.

The answer is B: present

Worked example 2

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the word in capitals.

CLEAN

A filthy **B** oval **C** salty **D** spotless

How to work it out

1. “filthy” is the opposite of “clean”.
2. Clean means free from dirt; filthy means very dirty.

The answer is A: filthy

SAMPLE

Worked example 3
Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "friend"?

A kettle **B** foe **C** parcel **D** companion

How to work it out

1. "foe" means the opposite of "friend".
2. A friend is someone you like; a foe is an enemy.

The answer is B: foe

★ Top Tip
When you meet a new word, put it in a short sentence. Then swap in each option and see if the sentence still makes sense.

▲ Watch Out
- Check whether the question asks for the same meaning or the opposite. Mixing them up is the commonest mistake.
- Do not pick a word just because it is on the same topic or looks like the word. It must really mean the same or the opposite.
- An opposite is the word that pulls the other way. Hot and cold are opposites. Hot and warm are not.

● Exam Tip
If you do not know the word, cross out the options that are clearly wrong first. Then choose from what is left and move on.

● Watch
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Key words

synonym	A word that means the same, or nearly the same, as another word.
antonym	A word that means the opposite of another word.
prefix	Letters added to the start of a word that change its meaning, such as un- or dis-.
trap	A wrong option made to look right. In an opposites question, it is often a word that means the same.

Part 1 Warm up

15 questions. Circle the letter of your answer. Use spare paper for your working.

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word in capitals.

1 SHOUT

A sketch **B** fold **C** whisper **D** yell

2 PUSH

A whisper **B** fold **C** press **D** knit

SAMPLE

18 ESSENTIAL

A waxy **B** steep **C** oval **D** vital

19 HASTEN

A rush **B** stir **C** polish **D** whisper

20 EVIDENT

A furry **B** clear **C** woollen **D** metallic

21 VAGUE

A unclear **B** damp **C** woollen **D** hollow

22 ARROGANT

A purple **B** waxy **C** haughty **D** furry

23 CAUTIOUS

A muddy **B** damp **C** careful **D** purple

Answer these questions about the meanings of words.

24 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "reluctant"?

A willing **B** speckled **C** unwilling **D** muddy

25 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "fragile"?

A chalky **B** striped **C** sturdy **D** delicate

26 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "acquire"?

A bake **B** lose **C** obtain **D** paint

27 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "illuminate"?

A darken **B** light **C** bake **D** weave

28 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "courage"?

A mitten **B** thicket **C** bravery **D** fear

29 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "summon"?

A banish **B** juggle **C** call **D** march

30 Which word is most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to "transparent"?

A dusty **B** murky **C** clear **D** crumbly

Score: _____ / 15

Part 3 Stretch

15 questions. Circle the letter of your answer. Use spare paper for your working.

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word in capitals.

31 FUTILE

A furry **B** slow **C** pointless **D** wooden

32 LINGER

A juggle **B** dawdle **C** rest **D** photograph

33 PERPLEX

A annoy **B** peel **C** wade **D** baffle

34 SURPLUS

A anchor **B** extra **C** meadow **D** gift

SAMPLE