



ESL Vocabulary Worksheet for Adults

Topic: Synonyms and Antonyms

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EXERCISE 1: Fill in the gaps

Part A

Fill in the gaps with the correct synonyms of the words in brackets.

1. The author's _____ novel is just as (recent) as her first.
2. His _____ demeanour made everyone else feel (happy).
3. The _____ elephant was the (big) attraction at the zoo.
4. They made a _____ profit, which was (important) for the company's growth.
5. She spoke in a _____ voice, which sounded very (harmonious).
6. The _____ journey took a (difficult) toll on the travellers.
7. His ideas were always _____, never (original).
8. The room was filled with _____ flowers, making the air smell (pleasant).
9. Her approach to the problem was very _____, completely (rational).
10. The cat's fur was _____ smooth, which felt (soft) to the touch.

Part B

Fill in the gaps with the correct antonyms of the words in brackets.

1. The dessert was _____, quite the opposite of (sweet).
2. His response was _____, not at all (lengthy).
3. She was _____ about the outcome, unlike her (optimistic) brother.
4. The film's ending was _____, far from being (unexpected).
5. This path is _____, unlike the (dangerous) route we took yesterday.
6. His attitude was _____, nothing like her (active) engagement.
7. The economy is _____, which is the reverse of (growing).
8. During the summer, the town is _____, not (crowded) like it is in winter.
9. The surface was _____, not (smooth) as had been described.
10. He is quite _____, which is different from being (arrogant).



EXERCISE 2: Multiple Choice

Part A

Choose the correct antonym for the word in capital letters.

1. VIVACIOUS
 - a) Dull
 - b) Energetic
 - c) Spirited
2. CONFIDENT
 - a) Unsure
 - b) Self-assured
 - c) Positive
3. STRENGTHEN

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- a) Fortify
 - b) Weaken
 - c) Build
4. COMPLEX
- a) Simple
 - b) Complicated
 - c) Intricate
5. OPTIMISTIC
- a) Pessimistic
 - b) Hopeful
 - c) Positive

Part B

Choose the correct synonym for the word in capital letters.

1. ARDUOUS
- a) Easy
 - b) Demanding
 - c) Relaxing
2. SURREPTITIOUS
- a) Secretive
 - b) Open

c) Obvious

3. EXUBERANT

a) Lively

b) Restrained

c) Depressed

4. FRUGAL

a) Thrifty

b) Wasteful

c) Extravagant

5. MUNDANE

a) Extraordinary

b) Ordinary

c) Remarkable



EXERCISE 3: Word Matching

Part A

Match the word with its antonym.

Generous

Optimistic

Ancient

Robust

Fragile	Lethargic
Pessimistic	Stingy
Lively	Modern

Part B

Match the word with its synonym.

Coherent	Clear
Widespread	Genuine
Diligent	Logical
Transparent	Prevalent
Authentic	Industrious



EXERCISE 4: Using Synonyms and Antonyms for Context Clues

Part A

Use the antonyms provided as clues to infer the meaning of the underlined words.

1. Despite the **arduous** conditions, the climbers felt it was worth it, unlike their previous _____ trek.
2. His **sparse** understanding of the subject was evident, quite unlike his colleague's _____ knowledge.
3. The solution to the puzzle was **obscure**, far from the _____ answer I was expecting.

4. They lived in a **prosperous** neighbourhood, not at all similar to the _____area across the river.
5. Her **gregarious** personality made her many friends, unlike her _____brother who preferred solitude.

Part B

Use the synonyms provided as clues to infer the meaning of the underlined words.

1. The **eloquent** speech was **persuasive**, convincing everyone in the audience.
2. The historical novel was full of **intrigue** and **mystery**, keeping readers captivated until the very end.
3. His **meticulous** attention to detail ensured that the event was **flawless**.
4. The **vibrant** colors of the mural brought **life** to the otherwise dull room.
5. Her **inquisitive** nature meant she was always **curious** about the world around her.



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