

Antonyms (Opposites)

In your examination, one question is usually asked based on opposite words or Antonyms. This question can be asked in the following two ways : (Directly or Indirectly).

1. Give or write opposite words of the following :

(a) fast (b) high (c) clean (d) tall

Ans. (a) slow (b) low (c) dirty (d) dwarf

2. Complete the following sentences by filling in blanks with the opposite of the words given in the brackets :

- (a) This is very work. (easy)
 (b) She is a very girl. (ugly)
 (c) I am to Dholpur. (coming)
 (d) She is a (boy)

Ans. (a) difficult (b) beautiful (c) going (d) girl

To solve the above two types of questions, you must know as many opposite words as possible. For your help, we are giving here some important words and their opposites along with some common rules by which opposites are formed :

Important Rules for Formation of Opposites

1. Some words are made opposites by way of dropping 'ful' and putting 'less' in its place. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
useful	useless	careful	careless

2. In some of the words, opposites 'prefixes' are added to make them 'opposite'. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
inside	outside	indoor	outdoor

3. Some words are made opposites by way of adding 'in' before them. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
correct	incorrect	complete	incomplete

4. Some words are made opposites by way of adding 'mis' before them. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
use	misuse	fortune	misfortune

5. 'ir', 'il' or 'im' are added before words to make their opposites. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
regular	irregular	possible	impossible
legal	illegal	pure	impure

6. Some words are made opposites by prefixing 'dis'. For example :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
like	dislike	obey	disobey
honest	dishonest	please	displease

7. Some words are made opposites by way of adding 'un' before them. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
kind	unkind	happy	unhappy

8. By way of changing words completely. As :

Words	Opposites	Words	Opposites
good	bad	weak	strong
come	go	close	open

➡ The following precautions should be kept in mind while forming opposites.

1. The 'parts of speech' of the word should be retained, that is, the opposite of a noun should also be a noun, and the opposite of a verb should also be a verb. As :

Words	Parts of Speech	Opposites
wise	adjective	foolish
go	verb	come
in	preposition	out
yes	interjection	no
here	adverb	there
all	pronoun	none
heaven	noun	hell
and	conjunction	or

2. The opposite of 'verb' will be 'verb'. In addition, tense of the word shall have similar tense in opposite word. As :

Words	Tenses
went	simple past
going	present participle
go	simple present
gone	past participle
will go	simple future

Opposites	Tenses
came	simple past
coming	present participle
come	simple present
come	past participle
will come	simple future

3. If any word is of 'singular number' then its opposite will also be of singular number. Likewise word is of plural number then its opposite will also be of plural number. As:

Words	Numbers
friend	singular
friends	plural
goes	singular

Opposites	Numbers
foe/enemy	singular
foes/enemies	plural
comes	singular