

Terms for Synonyms, Antonyms, and Semantic Gradients

Depth Words; Becks Tier 2 Words



Teach the target pairs, first (synonyms and antonyms), then select appropriate words from each group and do Semantic Gradients. The following are listed in alphabetical order of the first item in each pair, not in the order of difficulty.

afraid	fearful, scared, frightened, anxious, terrified, worried, apprehensive, timid
courageous	bold, unafraid, daring, fearless, valiant, heroic
ask	question, inquire, seek information, request, demand, query, interrogate, probe
answer	reply, respond, retort, react
beautiful	pretty, lovely, attractive, gorgeous, dazzling, magnificent, fair, pleasing, stunning
ugly	hideous, frightful, horrible, unpleasant, ghastly, horrid, plain, homely, repulsive
begin	start, initiate, commence, originate
end	stop, finish, terminate, conclude, halt, discontinue
big	enormous, huge, immense, gigantic, vast, large, grand, substantial, astronomical
little	small, tiny, itty-bitsy, slight, petite, miniature, microscopic
brave	fearless, courageous, daring, bold, gallant
cowardly	weak, gutless, spineless, faint-hearted, lily-livered
bright	brilliant, sparkling, shiny, shimmering, radiant, vivid, luminous
dark	shadowy, unlit, gloomy, dim, shaded, sunless, black, dismal
calm	quiet, relaxed, peaceful, still, tranquil, serene, composed, unexcited, cool
nervous	anxious, worried, edgy, jumpy, panicky, tense,
dangerous	unsafe, daring, threatening, chancy, hazardous, risky, perilous
safe	harmless, secure, protected, benign
funny	humorous, amusing, comical, silly, laughable, witty,
serious	solemn, stern, somber, grim, unsmiling, humorless
good	fine, excellent, superior, wonderful, marvelous
bad	inferior, faulty, inappropriate, unsuitable, horrible
happy	elated, pleased, glad, joyful, cheerful, blissful, ecstatic, delighted, euphoric
sad	unhappy, miserable, depressed, gloomy, down, blue, dejected, glum, despondent
help	assist, aid, support, encourage, back, serve, relieve
hinder	interfere, burden, deter, limit, stop, sabotage, impede
hot	warm, burning, scorching, blistering, sizzling, fiery, heated, scalding
cold	chilly, freezing, icy, frosty, wintry, frozen, arctic

important	significant, vital, valuable, imperative, key, main, essential, critical, primary
unimportant	insignificant, minor, petty, frivolous, trifling
lazy	idle, inactive, sluggish, slothful
energetic	active, peppy, lively, spirited, enthusiastic, animated
love	like, admire, cherish, adore, treasure, worship, appreciate, devoted, care for
hate	dislike, despise, disapprove, abhor, detest, loathe
neat	clean, orderly, tidy, well-organized, well-kept, arranged
messy	untidy, disorderly, jumbled, cluttered, chaotic
new	fresh, original, current, recent, up-to-date, modern, contemporary
old	ancient, dated, out-of-date, aged, older
noisy	loud, blaring, deafening, piercing, raucous
quiet	silent, still, soundless, mute, peaceful, calm, restful, serene
odd	strange, unusual, uncommon, weird, peculiar, offbeat, eccentric
ordinary	normal, commonplace, usual, regular, average, familiar, routine, conventional
preserve	keep, maintain, uphold, save, sustain, conserve
destroy	end, finish, terminate, extinguish, abolish
right	correct, accurate, true, exact, precise, factual, spot-on
wrong	incorrect, mistaken, false, erroneous
run	rush, speed, hurry, jog, sprint, loped, scamper, dart, dash, scurry, flee
walk	stroll, saunter, amble, hike, march
scared	frightened, afraid, fearful, nervous, petrified, anxious, terrified
fearless	courageous, unafraid, brave, bold, confident, daring
slow	gradual, sluggish, unhurried, measured, leisurely
fast	quick, hasty, swift, speedy, rapid, brisk, high-speed
stop	halt, cease, stay, pause, discontinue, conclude, end, finish, quit
go	begin, commence, move, depart, leave
take	remove, grab, seize, steal, rob, withhold
give	share, lend, offer, present, furnish, award, impart
delicious	tasty, yummy, mouthwatering, appetizing, scrumptious, delectable
tasteless	bland, flavorless, flat, weak, dull, unsavory
true	right, accurate, correct, right, exact
false	untrue, incorrect, wrong, made-up, deceptive
work	effort, labor, toil, exert oneself; employment
play	fun, recreation, amusement, frolic