

What is Synonymy?

Worksheet

Synonyms are words with similar meanings but different nuances, registers, or emotional tones, requiring careful selection based on context and intended effect.

Questions

1. 'Walk' and 'stroll' are synonyms because...
 - A) they mean exactly the same
 - B) they share similar meaning with different nuance
 - C) they're opposites
 - D) they're homophones
2. 'Joyful' vs 'happy' — which is more intense?
 - A) happy
 - B) joyful
 - C) they're identical
 - D) neither
3. Semantic field means...
 - A) an agricultural area
 - B) a group of related meanings
 - C) poetic language
 - D) slang terms
4. Why choose 'stroll' over 'walk'?
 - A) it's more common
 - B) it conveys leisurely, relaxed pace
 - C) it's shorter
 - D) it's only British
5. Explain the nuance difference between 'happy' and 'joyful'.
6. Compare 'walk', 'stroll', and 'trudge' — same action, different manner.
7. Nuance differences: 'beautiful', 'gorgeous', 'pretty'.
8. Define: What is synonymy?
9. Define: Example of synonyms with nuance?
10. Define: Why does nuance matter in synonyms?

Answer Key

1. B) they share similar meaning with different nuance — They both describe movement, but 'stroll' suggests leisurely pace; they're near-synonyms with nuance difference.
2. B) joyful — 'Joyful' is more intense, poetic, and emphatic than the neutral 'happy'.
3. B) a group of related meanings — A semantic field is a network of words related by meaning or concept.
4. B) it conveys leisurely, relaxed pace — 'Stroll' specifically conveys a slow, leisurely, relaxed pace — different nuance than 'walk'.
5. 'Happy' is a general, neutral state of contentment 'Joyful' is more intense, poetic, and celebratory 'I'm happy to help' (neutral) vs. 'I'm joyful about the news' (intense)
6. 'Walk' is neutral, general movement 'Stroll' suggests leisurely, relaxed pace 'Trudge' implies tired, difficult, heavy-footed movement
7. 'Beautiful' is general, standard praise 'Gorgeous' is intense, emphatic, and admiring 'Pretty' is mild, gentle, and often for small things
8. The relationship between words with similar but not identical meanings.
9. Happy, joyful, pleased — similar meanings, different emotional intensity.
10. It affects tone, formality, emotional impact, and appropriateness in context.

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