

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises: matching, identifying, replacing, gap-fill

Focus

Adjective synonyms

Aim

To learn and practice adjective synonyms.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this adjectives worksheet, students learn and practice adjective synonyms.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students start by reading a story and matching adjectives in bold with their synonyms.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. simple | 5. entire | 9. warm | 13. close |
| 2. upset | 6. smart | 10. lonely | 14. difficult |
| 3. cheerful | 7. afraid | 11. pretty | 15. neat |
| 4. noisy | 8. huge | 12. relaxed | 16. sick |

Next, students read the rest of the story. When students find a synonym for each adjective shown, they write it above the adjective.

Exercise B - Answer key

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. rude | 2. rare | 3. delicious | 4. exhausted |
| 5. below | 6. wrong | 7. fortunate | 8. concerned |

Students then move on to replace adjectives in sentences with their synonyms.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. rare | 4. rude | 7. fortunate | 10. upset |
| 2. cheerful | 5. below | 8. exhausted | 11. near |
| 3. smart | 6. wrong | 9. concerned | 12. hard |

Lastly, students complete sentences with the adjectives from the story or their synonyms.

Exercise D - Answer key

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. afraid / scared | 7. noisy / loud |
| 2. warm / hot | 8. neat / tidy |
| 3. pretty / attractive | 9. simple / easy |
| 4. sick / ill | 10. relaxed / calm |
| 5. delicious / tasty | 11. entire / whole |
| 6. huge / enormous | 12. lonely / alone |

A synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. Read the story and match the adjectives written in bold with their synonyms below.

On Friday morning, I woke up feeling **cheerful** and full of energy. I was really looking forward to the weekend as I was going to a party and knew that Alice, the **pretty** girl from my English class, was going to be there. After a **huge** breakfast of bacon, eggs, toast, and an **entire** box of cereal, I got ready to leave the house. As I live **close** to my school, and it was a nice **warm** day, I decided to walk. Ten minutes later I arrived. The school was very **noisy** that day with young students running around the corridors as I walked towards my classroom.

When I entered the class, the only person there was Ann, a nice girl who was very hardworking and **smart**. "Morning Joe," she said. "Are you ready for the test?" "What test?" I asked. I couldn't remember hearing about a test and was **afraid** I was losing my memory. "The geometry test. Mrs Grim told us about it last week. Don't worry though, her tests are never too **difficult**."

I suddenly felt a bit **sick**. Although I found basic math quite **simple**, geometry was a different story. I knew that if I didn't do well, my parents wouldn't let me go to the party, and I would spend Saturday night feeling **lonely** and **upset**. "Don't look so worried Joe," she said. "It's just a test. You'll do fine." Soon Mrs Grim arrived, placing a pile of papers on her **neat** desk. I looked at my classmates who had by now arrived, and wished I felt as **relaxed** as they did.

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1.
easy | 5.
whole | 9.
hot | 13.
near |
| 2.
sad | 6.
clever | 10.
alone | 14.
hard |
| 3.
happy | 7.
scared | 11.
attractive | 15.
tidy |
| 4.
loud | 8.
enormous | 12.
calm | 16.
ill |

B. Read the rest of the story. When you find a synonym for each adjective below, write it above the adjective.

An hour later, the bell rang and the teacher collected our papers. We then went to the cafeteria to have lunch. Although Mum had made me a delicious cheese sandwich, I was too concerned about my test results to eat very much, which was quite rare for me as I normally have a good appetite. I was even too nervous to play football, so when my friends asked me to join their game, I told them I was exhausted after the test, as I didn't want to sound rude.

Soon the bell rang, and I returned to class, expecting to be given a paper with a big 'F' on it. Instead, Mrs Grim handed me a paper with a huge 'A' below my name. "Surely this is wrong," I said. "No, it isn't," she said. "Well done Joe." I had never felt so fortunate. The party was just a day away, and I was going to be there.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1.
impolite | 2.
unusual | 3.
tasty | 4.
tired |
| 5.
under | 6.
incorrect | 7.
lucky | 8.
worried |

C. Replace the adjective in bold in each sentence with its synonym. Can you do it without looking at the first page?

1. It is **unusual** to see pigs in the city.
2. Jose was feeling **happy** because he'd heard some good news.
3. She's a very **clever** girl, just like her brother.
4. It is very **impolite** to ask a person how much money they earn.
5. My flat is **under** Jan's. Hers is on the fifth floor, mine is on the fourth.
6. I didn't do well in the test. Most of my answers were **incorrect**.
7. I feel very **lucky** to have such great friends.
8. After staying awake all night, I was **tired**.
9. I was **worried** about my grandmother who was very sick in hospital.
10. Kim was very **sad** because her pet fish had died.
11. I chose this apartment because the subway station is quite **close**.
12. Doing your own taxes is **difficult**, so it's better to get some help.

D. Complete the sentences with the adjectives from the story or their synonyms.

1. I am of snakes. If I see one, I scream.
2. It's nice and outside. You don't need a jacket.
3. This town is so It's a photographer's dream.
4. I didn't go to school because I was feeling very
5. It's a great restaurant. The food is and it's not too expensive.
6. I've never seen a spider that size before. It was!
7. Please don't be so! The baby is sleeping.
8. She is a very organised person and her room is always
9. Learning to ride a bicycle is Anyone can do it.
10. Nico is always very He never seems to get stressed.
11. I can't believe he ate the cake! He didn't leave any for the rest of us.
12. I didn't know anybody when I first moved to Rome, so I felt very