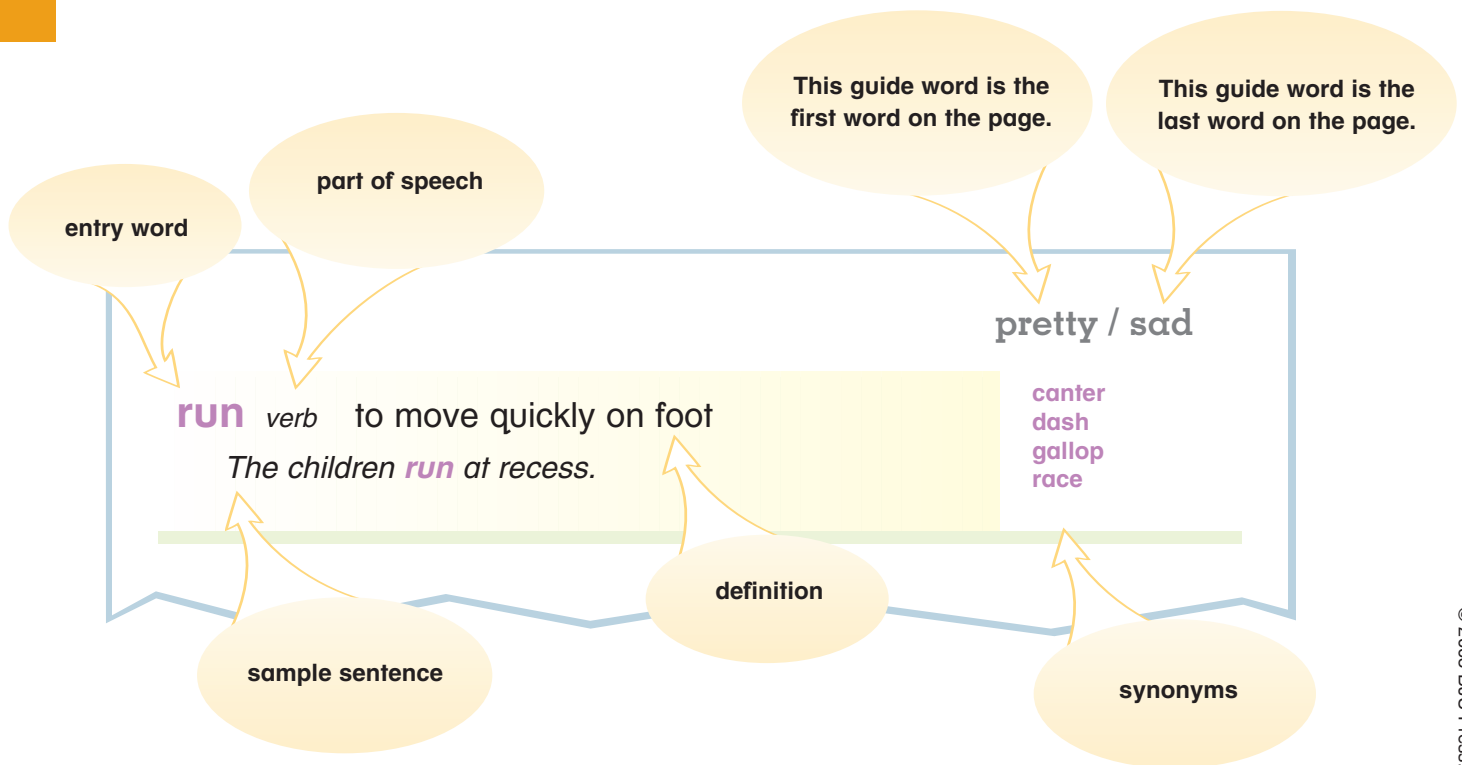


Using a Thesaurus

A *thesaurus* contains a list of synonyms, words that have a similar meaning. You can use a thesaurus to find a more exact word or a more interesting word when you write.

The *entry words* are arranged in alphabetical order. *Guide words* can help you locate a word. Each entry gives a *definition* and uses the word in a *sample sentence*. A list of *synonyms* that can be used to replace the entry word is provided. The entry also tells the *part of speech*, how the word is used in the sentence.



The following sentence tells the reader what the horses are doing. Changing the word *run* will make the sentence more interesting. When choosing a synonym, be careful not to change the meaning of the sentence.

The horses *run* through the field.

The horses *canter* through the field.

The horses *dash* through the field.

The horses *gallop* through the field.

The horses *race* through the field.

afraid *adjective* filled with fear
*He is **afraid** to climb the tower.*

fearful
 frightened
 nervous
 scared
 uneasy
 worried

answer *noun* a reply to a question, statement, or invitation
*My **answer** is "no."*

reply
 response

ask *verb* to put a question to; to look for an answer
***Ask** the librarian for help.*

inquire
 question
 request

bad *adjective* not good
*The new recipe is **bad**.*

awful
 horrible
 terrible

big *adjective* of great size
*An elephant is a **big** animal.*

enormous
 gigantic
 grand
 great
 huge
 large

bother *verb* to give trouble to
*Please don't **bother** your sister when she is doing homework.*

annoy
 harass
 irritate
 pester

brave *adjective* having or showing courage
*The **brave** man rescued the boy from the cave.*

bold
 courageous
 valiant

break *verb* to come apart or take apart
*Don't **break** the branch on the tree.*

crack
 damage
 fracture
 separate
 shatter
 smash

build *verb* to make or form something by putting parts or materials together
*Let's **build** a fence.*

construct
 form
 shape

buy *verb* to give money to get goods or services
*We will **buy** candy at the store.*

obtain
 purchase

calm / disappear

calm *adjective* not excited; peacefully quiet

*She spoke in a **calm** voice.*

peaceful
serene
still
tranquil
undisturbed

careful *adjective* taking time to think before acting

*Be **careful** about crossing the street.*

cautious
prudent
watchful

carry *verb* to take from one place to another

*The men **carry** furniture into the house.*

haul
lug
move
transport

change *verb* to make or become different

*Let's **change** the color of the room.*

replace
switch
transform

cold *adjective* having a low temperature; feeling no warmth

*This house is **cold** even though it is warm outside.*

chilly
cool
frosty
frozen

cry *verb* to shed tears because of pain or a strong feeling

*I sometimes **cry** when I am hurt.*

sob
wail
weep
whimper

cut *verb* to tear into strips or pieces

***Cut** the paper.*

chop
dice
rip
shred
slice
snip
tear

destroy *verb* to ruin completely; wipe out

*The fire will **destroy** the whole village.*

demolish
ruin
wreck

different *adjective* not being the same

*The sea horse is **different**.*

distinct
unique
unlike
unusual

dirty *adjective* not clean

*My shirt was **dirty** after I played with the dog.*

filthy
soiled

disappear *verb* to pass out of sight either little by little or suddenly

*The chocolate cookies always **disappear** first.*

fade
vanish

easy *adjective* needing very little work

It's **easy** to ride a bicycle.

effortless
simple
uncomplicated

empty *adjective* containing nobody or nothing

The house was **empty** when we left.

unoccupied
vacant

enough *adjective* as many or as much as needed

Is there **enough** food for everyone?

adequate
plenty
sufficient

fair *adjective* not favoring one more than another

The judge made a **fair** decision.

consistent
honest
impartial
just
lawful
legal
right

fast *adjective* acting or moving quickly

Kate is a **fast** runner.

quick
rapid
speedy
swift

fear *noun* a bad feeling caused by the nearness of danger or pain of something unknown.

I have a **fear** of high places.

alarm
dismay
dread
fright
terror

find *verb* to come upon by accident; to look for and discover

Did you **find** my keys?

discover
encounter
recover
regain

finish *verb* to bring to an end

When will you **finish** your homework?

complete
conclude
end
terminate

fix *verb* to secure or repair

Could you **fix** the broken faucet?

mend
repair
restore

funny *adjective* causing laughter or amusement

The **funny** clown made us laugh.

amusing
hilarious
humorous

get *verb* to receive; to gain

Mary is hoping that she will **get** a bike for her birthday.

acquire
gain
obtain
receive

give / hide

give *verb* to make a present of; to hand over

We **give** money to the missionaries.

contribute
offer
present
provide
supply

gloomy *adjective* a state of mind or atmosphere that is dark or discouraging

Don't let the **gloomy** day make you unhappy.

bleak
depressing
dismal
dreary

go *verb* to pass from one place to another

We **go** to Washington every year.

move
proceed
race
run
travel

good¹ *adjective* high in quality

Earthworms are **good** for our soil.

favorable
helpful
right
suitable
useful

good² *adjective* having a pleasant taste or smell

The cookies are **good**.

delicious
delightful
scrumptious
tasty

great *adjective* superior in quality

George Washington was a **great** leader.

awesome
exceptional
grand
important
outstanding
wonderful

happy *adjective* having a cheerful spirit

The **happy** children played and sang.

content
glad
joyful
satisfied

hard *adjective* requiring great effort

You have a **hard** job to do.

difficult
tough
trying

hide *verb* to put or keep out of sight

Let's **hide** the presents where no one can find them.

conceal
cover

hit *verb* to give a blow to*I will **hit** the nail hard.*smack
smite
strike**hold** *verb* to take and keep in the hands or arms***Hold** the rope tightly.*clasp
grasp
grip**honest** *adjective* not lying, stealing, or cheating*An **honest** person will return a lost wallet.*respectable
sincere
trustworthy
truthful
upright**hot** *adjective* having a lot of heat*Don't touch the **hot** stove.*burning
fiery
scorching
warm**hurry** *verb* to speed up*We can finish on time if we **hurry**.*hustle
rush**hurt** *verb* to cause pain or injury to*The child fell and **hurt** his wrist.*damage
harm
impair
injure
wound**important** *adjective* having great value*He had an **important** message to give the president.*influential
meaningful
significant
valuable**job** *noun* a chore, usually done on a regular schedule;
occupation*My **job** is to feed the cat every day.**Nursing is her **job**.*career
chore
duty
employment
livelihood
profession
task
trade
work**join** *verb* to come or put together; to become one of a group*He **joined** the pieces.*attach
combine
connect
fasten
link**jump** *verb* to rise off the ground by using the legs*Some grasshoppers can **jump** very high.*bounce
hop
leap
spring up

kind / mad

kind¹ *adjective* helpful and considerate

*He is always **kind** to little children.*

considerate
courteous
friendly
helpful
loyal
nice
sweet
thoughtful
understanding

kind² *noun* a group of the same or similar things

*Swans are a **kind** of water bird.*

category
group
sort
type

know *verb* to get or understand the meaning of

*Do you **know** the question?*

comprehend
understand

laugh *verb* to make sounds and movements to express happiness or amusement

*The clown makes him **laugh**.*

chuckle
giggle
snicker

lift *verb* to raise into the air

*She will **lift** the box.*

elevate
hoist
raise

like *verb* to be fond of

*Which outfit do you **like**?*

enjoy
favor
prefer

little *adjective* small in size or quantity

*Our **little** table seats only three people.*

miniature
short
small
tiny

look *verb* to use the eyes to see; to seek

***Look** everywhere for the kitten.*

check
gaze
glance
hunt
investigate
observe
search
seek
watch

mad *adjective* very upset

*He is **mad** at us for not inviting him.*

aggravated
angry
annoyed
furious
resentful
upset

make *verb* to bring into being; put together

*I will **make** a gift for you.*

build
construct
create
form
mold
produce
shape

move *verb* to change or cause to change location

*Can you **move** your chair?*

budge
relocate
scoot
shift
transfer

neat *adjective* in clean condition, not messy

*He has a **neat** desk.*

orderly
organized
tidy

nice *adjective* very pleasing

*It is a **nice** day.*

fine
good
kind
pleasant
pleasing
pretty

noise *noun* a sound or an unpleasant or unexpected sound

*I couldn't sleep because of the **noise** from the trucks.*

commotion
racket
sound

old *adjective* having lived or existed for many years

*An **old** man lives next door.*

aged
elderly

pick *verb* to decide on or prefer something

*She will **pick** a leader.*

choose
elect
select

pile *noun* a lot of things stacked together

*We have a **pile** of wood for our campfire.*

heap
load
stack

polite *adjective* having or showing good manners

*He is always **polite** to visitors.*

courteous
gracious
mannerly
tactful

pretty *adjective* delightful to look at, listen to, or think about

*That is a **pretty** painting.*

beautiful
gorgeous
lovely
marvelous
pleasing
wonderful

promise / shiny

promise *verb* to give one's word to do or not to do something

*I **promise** to obey.*

commit
declare
pledge
vow

protect *verb* to keep from harm

*She wore sunglasses to **protect** her eyes from the glare.*

guard
preserve
shield

pull *verb* to grasp something and cause it to move forward or toward oneself

***Pull** the rope harder.*

drag
jerk
tow
tug

push *verb* to press against something in order to move it

*He tried to **push** the rock into the hole.*

press
shove
thrust

put *verb* to set or cause to be in a certain location or condition

***Put** your pencils in the desk.*

lay
place
set
spread

quiet *adjective* making little or no noise

*A farm is **quiet** in the early morning hours.*

calm
hushed
peaceful
restful
silent
still

right *adjective* something that is true

*Yes, that is the **right** answer.*

accurate
correct
exact
proper
true

run *verb* to move quickly on foot

*The children **run** at recess.*

canter
dash
gallop
race

sad *adjective* filled with sorrow

*He was **sad** when it was time to leave.*

depressed
gloomy
sorrowful
unhappy

say *verb* to speak out loud

*Can you **say** that more clearly?*

communicate
declare
exclaim
express
speak
state

shiny *adjective* reflecting light

*Mother has a **shiny** jewel in her ring.*

bright
brilliant
glistening
radiant

short¹ *adjective* taking a small amount of time

*I'm going for a **short** walk.*

abrupt
brief
condensed
quick

short² *adjective* not long or tall; small in length or height

*The rope is too **short**.*

miniature
tiny

show *verb* to put in sight; allow to be seen

*Please **show** your science project to the judge.*

display
exhibit
present
reveal

smart *adjective* having or requiring a quick mind

*You have to be **smart** to answer that question.*

bright
clever
ingenious
intelligent
shrewd
skillful

smell *noun* the sense by which odors are recognized; an odor or scent

*I love the **smell** of pine trees.*

aroma
fragrance
odor
scent

special *adjective* different from what is usual or common

*Christmas is a **special** day.*

exceptional
extraordinary
particular
unusual

start *verb* to begin an action or movement

*The game will **start** after lunch.*

begin
commence

stop *verb* to cease moving

*We will **stop** soon.*

break
cease
pause

strange *adjective* not known before; different

*They came to a **strange** land.*

different
odd
peculiar
unfamiliar
unusual
weird

strong *adjective* having much power, energy, or strength

*The **strong** elephant lifted the tree trunk.*

great
mighty
powerful
sturdy

surprise / weak

surprise *verb* to cause to feel astonishment or wonder

*I will **surprise** my mother on her birthday.*

amaze
astonish
shock
startle

take *verb* to capture, seize, or win

*Let the horse **take** the apple from your hand.*

grab
grasp
seize
snatch
sneak
steal

throw *verb* to send through the air with a swift motion of the arm

***Throw** the ball to Lance.*

fling
hurl
pitch
toss

tired *adjective* ready for or needing sleep

*He's so **tired** he can't keep his eyes open.*

drowsy
sleepy

trip *noun* the distance traveled on a journey

*We took a **trip** of one thousand miles.*

journey
voyage

trouble *noun* a difficult or dangerous situation

*The flood caused the family **trouble**.*

difficulty
distress

usual *adjective* seen or happening all of the time

*I ate my **usual** breakfast.*

customary
expected
normal
ordinary
regular

walk *verb* to move on foot at an easy, steady pace

*Let's **walk** through the woods.*

amble
stroll
trudge

want *verb* to have a desire for

*I **want** to play outside.*

desire
wish

weak *adjective* without strength, power, or energy

*He was **weak** after his illness.*

feeble
frail
powerless