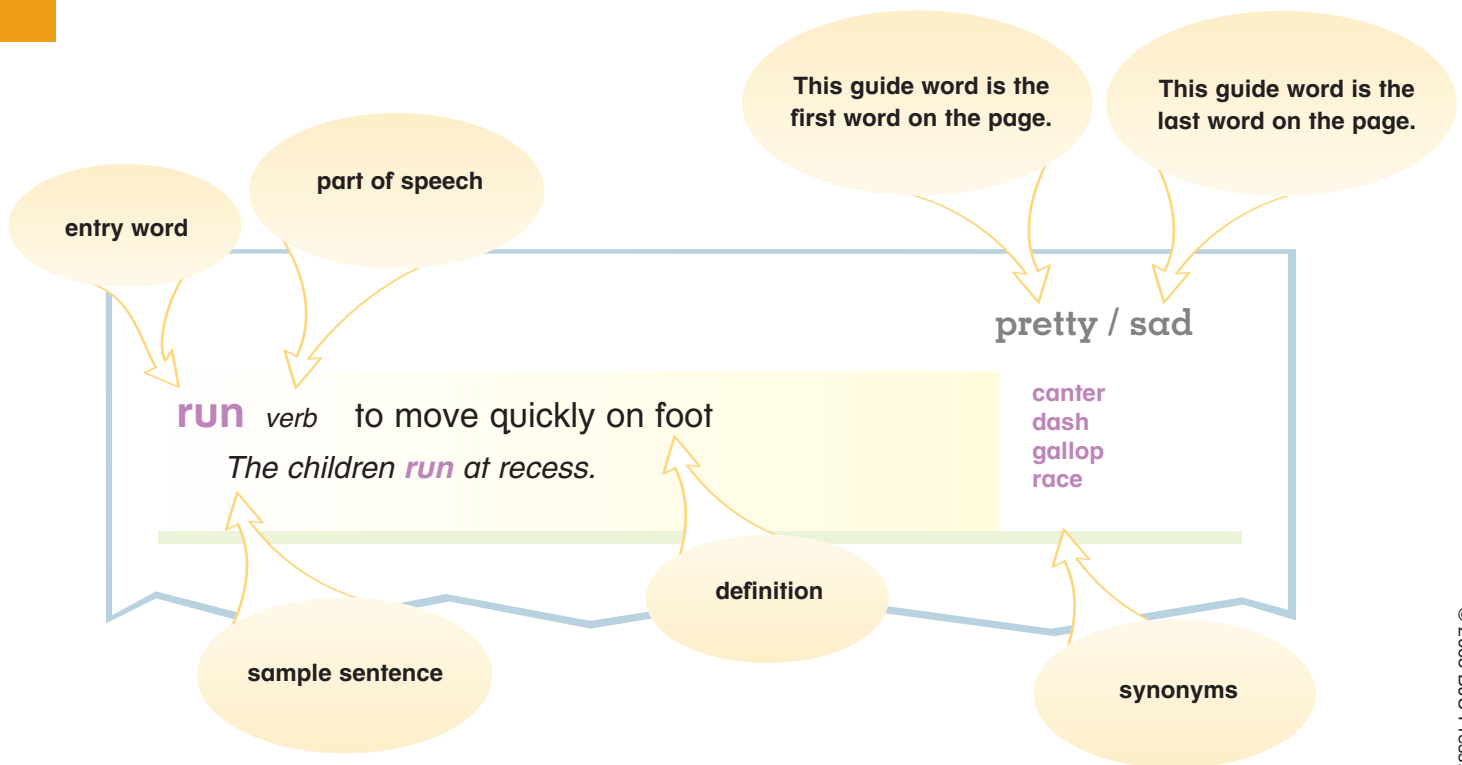


# Using a Thesaurus

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

**good**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* high in quality

Earthworms are **good** for our soil.

favorable  
helpful  
right  
suitable  
useful

**good**<sup>2</sup> *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

**kind**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* helpful and considerate

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

considerate  
courteous  
friendly  
helpful  
loyal  
nice  
sweet  
thoughtful  
understanding

**kind**<sup>2</sup> *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

**short<sup>1</sup>** *adjective* taking a small amount of time

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

abrupt  
brief  
condensed  
quick

**short<sup>2</sup>** *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