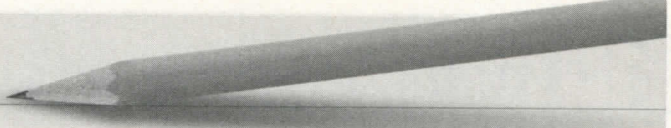


# Vocabulary Power



## Lesson 16 Using Reference Skills

### Using a Thesaurus: Synonyms and Antonyms

A thesaurus, which lists both synonyms and antonyms, is a useful reference source. With a thesaurus, you can locate words with similar meanings (synonyms) and often words with opposite meanings (antonyms). You can use these options to ensure that you say exactly what you mean. Below is a sample thesaurus entry.

**profuse** *adj.* 1. generous, extravagant, lavish, prodigal, openhanded, excessive 2. teeming, abounding, plentiful, abundant, limitless, overflowing, ample  
**Antonym:** 1. stingy, miserly, mean, selfish 2. thin, meager, sparse, scarce, inadequate

**EXERCISE A** Sentences will vary but should include an antonym for *profuse* used grammatically in a meaningful context. Possible answers are given for the *profuse* synonyms.

Replace *profuse* in each sentence below with a synonym. Then, using an antonym from the sample entry above, write a new sentence on the line.

1. The wedding was a gala affair, with **profuse** decorations filling all the rooms.  
lavish  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. All around me in the clear, blue-green waters were **profuse** schools of tiny, brilliantly colored fish.  
teeming  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. She so overwhelmed him with her **profuse** apologies that he began to blush.  
excessive  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE B** Possible answers are provided for synonyms and antonyms.

For each boldfaced word, use a thesaurus to write an antonym and a synonym.

- |                |                              |                               |
|----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. ardently    | antonym <u>indifferently</u> | synonym <u>eagerly</u>        |
| 2. audaciously | antonym <u>timidly</u>       | synonym <u>daringly</u>       |
| 3. censure     | antonym <u>approval</u>      | synonym <u>reproach</u>       |
| 4. imperious   | antonym <u>humble</u>        | synonym <u>lordly</u>         |
| 5. placid      | antonym <u>stormy</u>        | synonym <u>serene, calm</u>   |
| 6. uncertain   | antonym <u>definite</u>      | synonym <u>tentative</u>      |
| 7. fastidious  | antonym <u>messy</u>         | synonym <u>finicky, picky</u> |
| 8. docile      | antonym <u>defiant</u>       | synonym <u>obedient</u>       |
| 9. brusque     | antonym <u>friendly</u>      | synonym <u>abrupt</u>         |
| 10. Profuse    | A <u>selfish</u>             | S <u>generous, excessive</u>  |

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