

Oxford Junior Illustrated Thesaurus



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How to use this thesaurus

What is the difference between a thesaurus and a dictionary?

A **dictionary** tells you what a word means, so it gives you a **definition** of the word.

A **thesaurus** tells you what other words have the same meaning, so it gives you **synonyms** of a word.

You use a dictionary when you have read, or heard, a new word and want to know what it means. You use a thesaurus when you want to write or say something yourself and you want to choose the best word.

Here are some good reasons why you should use a thesaurus:

- **to find a more interesting word** Are there any alternative words to describe clothes that are very **dirty**? Look up **dirty** to find some other adjectives to describe dirty clothes.
- **to find the right word** What word might you use to describe **rain**? Look up **rain** to find the right word.
- **to make your writing more interesting** Instead of saying that someone ate a whole pizza, you might write: He **wolfed** down a whole pizza! or He **polished** off a whole pizza!

Synonyms are words that mean the same—or nearly the same—as each other. You can make your writing more interesting by using different synonyms, rather than using the same words all the time.

Imagine you are writing about what you did at the weekend. You might start like this:

I had a good weekend. The weather was not very nice so we went to the shops. I got a new top that is really nice. I met up with my friend and we went to see a film. I thought it was good but my friend didn't like it.

Can you see that the words **nice** and **good** are used over and over again? If you look up these words in this thesaurus, you will find a number of synonyms with a similar meaning.

*I had a **brilliant** weekend. The weather was not very **sunny** so we went to the shops. I got a new top and it is really **stylish**. I met up with my friend and we went to see a film. I thought it was **amusing** but my friend didn't like it.*



alphabet

the alphabet is given on every page with the letter you are in highlighted so you can find your way around the thesaurus easily

headword

is in alphabetical order, in blue and it shows you how to spell a word

word web panel

words that are related to the headword or are types of the headword

synonyms

words that mean the same, or nearly the same as the headword

writing tips panel

sentences and words to inspire you to write creatively

citations

from well-known children's authors show how the word is used

blew to boat

A

blew VERB (past tense of **blow**)

Bb

blob NOUN

There was a **blob** of jam on the table.

a lump
a dollop
a drop

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

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S

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V

W

X

Y

Z

block NOUN

They covered the hole with a **block** of concrete.

a piece
a lump
a slab

block VERB

A huge lorry had **blocked** the road.

to obstruct
to clog up

blow VERB **blows, blowing, blew, blown**

He **blew** on his food to cool it down.

to breathe
to puff

blue ADJECTIVE

navy blue
sky-blue
royal blue
turquoise
azure
bright blue

blush VERB

She **blushed** a bright red whenever the teacher spoke to her.

to go red
to redden
to flush

boast VERB

She's always **boasting** about how good she is at netball.

to brag
to show off
to gloat

boat NOUN

We need a **boat** to get across the lake.

a ship
a vessel
a craft

WORD WEB

Some types of **boat**:

an aircraft carrier	a rowing boat
a barge	a sailing boat
a battleship	a speedboat
a canoe	a tanker
a dinghy	a trawler
a ferry	a warship
a fishing boat	a yacht
a kayak	
a lifeboat	
a motor boat	
a raft	



WRITING TIPS

Here are some useful words for writing about **boats**:

- The little fishing boat **bobbed up and down** in the water.
- The dinghy **drifted** slowly out to sea.
- We **float**ed down the river on our raft.
- The barge **chugged** slowly along the canal.
- The speedboat **sped** quickly through the water.
- We **sailed** the yacht into the harbour and **moored** it to the jetty.
- We were worried our little rowing boat would **capsize** in the storm.

He leant back in his seat and surveyed the cushions, the oars, the rowlocks, and all the fascinating fittings, and felt the boat sway lightly under him.—THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, Kenneth Grahame

word class

shows what type of word it is, for example, noun, verb, adverb or adjective

catch words

show the first and last word on the page and guide you to the correct place to find the word you need

overused word panel

lots of alternatives for words that are used over and over again

example sentence

shows how the word is used—this helps you choose a synonym for the right meaning

opposite (antonym)

words that have an opposite meaning to the headword

numbered sense

if a word has more than one meaning, they are numbered

bob to **bone**

bob VERB

The toy boat bobbed on the water.

to float
to bounce

body NOUN



WORD WEB

Some parts of your **body**:

ankle
arm
armpit
calf
cheek
chest
chin
ear
elbow
eye
finger
foot
forehead
hand
head
heel
hip
knee
leg
lip
mouth
navel
neck
nose

shin
shoulder
skin
stomach
thigh
throat
thumb
toe
waist
wrist

head

arm



hand

leg

foot

bog NOUN

He was sinking into the bog.

a marsh
a swamp

boil VERB

The water had started to boil.

to bubble
to simmer

boiling ADJECTIVE

1 Can we open a window? It's boiling in here.

baking
scorching
sweltering

OPPOSITE freezing

2 The soup was boiling hot and I couldn't eat it.

scalding
piping hot

OPPOSITE cold

bolt VERB

1 He bolts the door at night.

to lock
to fasten

2 The horse bolted from the stable.

to run away
to flee

3 She bolted her food as she was so hungry.

to gobble down
to guzzle
to wolf

bone NOUN



WORD WEB

Some **bones** in your body:

a backbone or a spine
A collarbone is the bone from your shoulder to your neck.
A pelvis is the bone across your hips.
ribs
a shoulder blade
a skull

a

Bb

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aim VERB

He **aimed** his water pistol at his aunt.
to point

aircraft NOUN

WORD WEB

Some types of **aircraft**:

an airliner
a biplane
a fighter plane
a glider
a helicopter
a jet
a jumbo jet

a helicopter



a biplane



a jet


WRITING TIPS

Here are some useful words for writing about **aircraft**:

- The aeroplane was **flying** high above the clouds.
- The jumbo jet **soared** up into the sky.
- Our plane **took off** at six o'clock and **landed** at ten o'clock.

The aircraft stayed very low, following the coastline.—SHARK ISLAND, David Miller

alarm NOUN

The fire **alarm** went off noisily.

a signal
an alert
a siren

alert ADJECTIVE

The sentries on duty must remain **alert**.

ready
attentive
awake
on the lookout

alive ADJECTIVE

The bird was injured but still **alive**.

living
breathing
OPPOSITE dead

allow VERB

They **allowed** us to use their swimming pool.

to let They **let** us use their swimming pool.
to permit They **permitted** us to use the swimming pool.

to give someone permission They **gave** us permission to use the swimming pool.

OPPOSITE forbid

all right ADJECTIVE

① Were you **all right** after the accident?

well
safe
unhurt
healthy

② The food in the restaurant was **all right**, but not brilliant.

OK (informal)
acceptable
satisfactory

almost ADVERB

I've **almost** finished making dinner, so we can eat soon.

nearly
virtually
practically

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Aa

amaze VERB

He **amazed** us with his magic tricks.

to astonish

to astound

amazed ADJECTIVE

I was **amazed** when I saw his new bike.

astonished

staggered

flabbergasted (informal)

stunned

amazement NOUN

They stared in **amazement** at the huge ship.

astonishment

surprise

wonder

Use **shock** when you feel amazement at something bad: I felt **shock** at this terrible news.

amazing ADJECTIVE

What an **amazing** car!

wonderful

fantastic

incredible

amount NOUN

They ate a huge

amount of food!

a quantity



amphibian NOUN



WORD WEB

Some **amphibians**:

a bullfrog

a frog

a newt

a salamander

a toad



a frog

amuse VERB

His jokes **amused** us all.

to entertain

to make someone laugh

amusing ADJECTIVE

He told us a very **amusing** story.

funny

humorous

comical

entertaining

angel NOUN

A beautiful **angel** appeared with a white robe and wings.

a spirit

a guardian angel

anger NOUN

She couldn't hide her **anger**.

annoyance

Use **irritation** for slight anger: He waved the flies away in **irritation**.

Use **fury** or **rage** for very great anger: Mr Evans turned crimson with **rage**.

Use **outrage** for great shock and anger: She felt **outrage** at the rude way he spoke to her.

angry ADJECTIVE

Mum looked very **angry**.

cross

annoyed

mad

Use **irritated** if someone is slightly angry: My mum gets a bit **irritated** if I keep asking her questions.

Use **furious**, **livid** or **enraged** if someone is very angry: My dad was absolutely **livid** when he saw what we'd done.

Use **infuriated** if someone is frustrated and angry: I got so **infuriated** when my computer wouldn't work.

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Bb

baby NOUN
a child
an infant

A **newborn** is a baby that has just been born.



OVERUSED WORD

Try to use a more interesting word when you want to say **bad**. Here are some other words you can use instead:

① He's a **bad** man.

Use **wicked** for a very bad person: *The country was ruled by a **wicked** king.*

Use **evil** for something that is very bad and frightening: *I sensed that there was something **evil** in that cave.*

Use **cruel** for someone who is very unkind and enjoys hurting people: *The two horses were bought by a **cruel** master who did not treat them well.*

Use **nasty** for someone who is mean or unkind: *He's a mean and **nasty** boy!*

② You **bad** dog!

Use **naughty** or **disobedient** for a person or animal who doesn't do as they are told:

*He was a very **naughty** boy who did not do as he was told.*

③ *There has been a **bad** accident and people have been hurt.*

terrible
awful
dreadful
horrible
shocking
serious

④ *I'm very **bad** at maths.*

hopeless
useless
poor
terrible
weak
incompetent

⑤ *Your writing is very **bad** —you should take more care with it.*

poor
careless
sloppy
shoddy

A **toddler** is a baby that is just learning to walk.

back NOUN

① *We sat at the **back** of the hall.*

the rear

② *I was at the **back** of the bus.*

the end

the rear

the tail end

the far end

OPPOSITE front

bad ADJECTIVE

⑥ *Sara's got a **bad** knee.*

sore

injured

painful

⑦ *Food goes **bad** if you don't keep it in the fridge.*

Use **off** for meat and fish:
*Don't eat the meat as it has gone **off**.*

Use **rotten** for fruit:
*The apples were brown and **rotten**.*



Use **mouldy** for cheese:
*The cheese was **mouldy** and smelly.*

Use **sour** for milk or cream:
*This milk has gone **sour**.*

OPPOSITE good

bag NOUN

She packed her books into her **bag**.



WORD WEB

Some types of **bag**:

- a backpack
- a beach bag
- a briefcase
- a carrier bag
- a handbag
- a holdall
- a rucksack
- a satchel
- a school bag
- a sports bag
- a suitcase
- a trunk

a beach bag



a rucksack



a handbag



a sports bag



ball NOUN

She threw the **ball** into the air.

- a sphere
- a globe

ban VERB

Our school has **banned** mobile phones.

Use **forbid** when a person tells someone not to do something: The teacher **has forbidden** us to talk.

Use **prohibit** when something is not allowed because of a rule or law: Smoking in public places is now **prohibited**.

band NOUN

I play the drums in the school **band**.

A **group** is any band, especially one that plays pop music.

A **brass band** is a group playing trumpets and other brass instruments.

An **orchestra** is a large group of musicians playing classical music.

bang NOUN

We heard a loud **bang** outside.

- a crash
- a thud
- a thump
- a boom
- a blast
- an explosion

bang VERB

① He **banged** on the door with his fists.

To **rap** or **tap** means to bang lightly: She **tapped** gently on the window.

To **hammer** means to bang loudly: He **hammered** loudly on the door.

② I fell and **banged** my head.

- to bump
- to knock
- to hit
- to bash

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Bb

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Become a Word Explorer!

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Word building

Have you ever thought about making up a word? If there isn't an exact word to describe something, you could try creating your own by thinking what it **looks**, **smells** or **tastes** like and then adding one of these endings.

-y

a fishy smell, an orangey colour, a chocolatey taste

-like

a snake-like creature, a giraffe-like neck, a silk-like cloth

You can also make new words to describe what something looks, smells or tastes like using these endings:

-looking

a strange-looking man, a fierce-looking dog

-smelling

sweet-smelling perfume, disgusting-smelling socks

-tasting

delicious-tasting soup, foul-tasting medicine

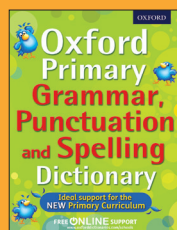
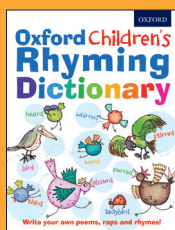
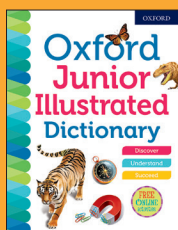
If you are describing an **ogre**, you could write:

*He had thick **leathery** skin and huge **shark-like** teeth. His eyes were small and **evil-looking**, and from his mouth came **foul-smelling** breath.*

A fun thesaurus full of words for brilliant creative writing

- ✓ Thousands of synonyms, writing tips, overused words and word webs to build writing skills
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