



# TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



## ABOUT ENGLISH ANTONYMS

**Tulanova Guli Dilshodbekovna**

*Andijan city, school №13, English teacher*

+998 90 2590503.

[Tulanovaguli7@gmail.com](mailto:Tulanovaguli7@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** *this article provides information on English antonyms. in addition, the types of antonyms and their use in speech structure are analyzed.*

**Key words:** *English antonyms, polysemantic words, parts of speech, category.*

We use the term antonyms to indicate words of the same category of parts of speech which have contrasting meanings, such as hot – cold, light – dark, happiness – sorrow, to accept – to reject, up – down.

Knowing how to use antonyms can improve your writing and English skills, but some details need to be explained. Below we answer the question, What are antonyms? We go into full detail and explain the different types and when to use them.

What is an antonym?

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. For example, an antonym of day is night, and an antonym of on is off. The term antonym comes from antonymy, which is the technical grammar term for words that have contradictory meanings—but you can think of antonyms as opposites.

Synonyms and antonyms

Antonyms are closely related to synonyms, which are words that have identical meanings. While antonyms have opposite meanings, synonyms have the same meaning.

Let's look at the example word big. The antonym of big is small. This is because big and small are opposites; the synonym of big is large because big and large mean the same thing.

big antonym: small synonym: large

Don't overthink it, but the words synonym and antonym are actually antonyms!

Cononyms or auto-antonyms

A cononym, also known as an auto-antonym, is a special type of antonym. Cononyms are words that have multiple meanings, and some of those meanings are antonyms of each other. Technically, cononyms are antonyms that are also homophones, which are words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings. Cononyms can fit into any of the types of antonyms below.

One of the most common cononym examples is dust. As a verb, dust can mean:

To remove dust (as in cleaning)

To sprinkle with dust (as in putting sugar on food)





Essentially, the word dust means both to “add dust” and “remove dust.” This contrast in definitions makes it a contronym. You can find more examples in our article on verb contronyms.

What’s the purpose of antonyms?

Antonyms play an important role in writing by making your words more effective. Placing opposites together highlights their differences and makes the individual words stronger. Specifically, you can use the power of opposites in three ways.

### 1 Comparisons

Antonyms are great for comparing two separate things and drawing attention to what makes them different. If you’re writing a research paper that compares two topics, using pairs of antonyms can better communicate what sets them apart.

For example, let’s say you’re discussing life in urban areas versus life in rural areas. Instead of just listing facts about each, you can use antonym pairs to communicate the differences more clearly. So you could call rural life “quiet” and urban life “noisy” or say that there are “few” people in rural areas and “many” people in urban areas.

### 2 Description

Sometimes the best way to describe something is to explain what it isn’t. Using antonyms with a negative can add new dimensions to your descriptions and improve your writing’s word choice.

For example, you might describe someone who is arrogant as “not modest” or “not humble.” Because modest and humble are antonyms of arrogant, you’re saying the same thing. However, using the antonyms draws attention to the fact that the person chooses not to be modest or humble, which adds a little more characterization than simply calling them “arrogant.”

Keep in mind that positive descriptions are usually better than negative descriptions, so antonyms are not recommended for descriptions all the time. Still, they work well when you’re playing with the reader’s expectations. For example, bugs are usually small, so when you mention a “giant bug,” the contrast makes the phrase stronger. In this way, antonyms can enhance your persuasive writing by strengthening your descriptive words and challenging your reader’s expectations.

### 3 Antithesis

Antithesis is a literary device that directly harnesses the power of opposites by placing them next to or near each other. As mentioned above, antonyms draw attention to what makes things different, making each word seem stronger. Antithesis takes this to the next level by putting antonyms together. Always look for opportunities to use antithesis when you revise your writing.

One of the most famous examples of antithesis is Neil Armstrong’s real-life quote when landing on the moon:

That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.





## TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'UYALAR



There are two different pairs of antonyms here: small and giant, and step and leap. By putting the opposite concepts of “small step” and “giant leap” together in the same sentence, his statement makes each of them seem more significant. If Neil’s first words on the moon were “I took a small step” and nothing more, his quote wouldn’t be nearly as popular!

### Types of antonyms

When we say antonyms are opposites, that’s a bit general. There are different types of opposites and so different types of antonyms.

### Complementary antonyms

Also known as binary antonyms or contradictory antonyms, complementary antonyms are word pairs where the positive use of one means the negative use of the other. In other words, they have an either-or relationship: Something can be either one or the other but never both at the same time.

### Complementary antonym examples:

on — off real — fake alive — dead

### Gradable antonyms

Also known as polar antonyms, gradable antonyms are opposite amounts of the same quality. For example, far and near are gradable antonyms because they are opposite amounts of distance. However, these qualities are relative: The mall may be far from your home, but compared to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, it’s near your home.

### Gradable antonym examples:

new — old hot — cold long — short

### Relational antonyms

Also known as converse antonyms, relational antonyms play opposite roles in a mutual relationship. For example, teacher and student are relational antonyms: Neither can exist without the other, and yet their roles are completely different.

### Relational antonym examples:

buy — sell left — right parent — child

### Antonyms and prefixes

In English, antonyms are often used with prefixes, small syllables of around one to three letters that attach to the beginnings of words to change their meaning. There are a few prefixes that reverse a word’s meaning, turning it into its opposite—perfect for antonyms!

Be careful when using prefixes: Not every word can take a prefix, so you can’t add them wherever you want. You just have to familiarize yourself with the common prefixed words in English until you memorize the correct terms. Also, pay attention to spelling, as sometimes a letter gets doubled to assist the pronunciation.

Here are some common prefixes used with antonym pairs, along with their examples. Each of these prefixes essentially changes a word’s meaning to its opposite.

dis- honest — dishonest appear — disappear agree — disagree

i- logical — illogical legal — illegal responsible — irresponsible

in-, im- possible — impossible decent — indecent discreet — indiscreet





## TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



non- believer — nonbeliever binary — nonbinary linear — nonlinear  
mis- lead — mislead behave — misbehave fortune — misfortune  
mal- function — malfunction nutrition — malnutrition adaptive — maladaptive  
un- important — unimportant necessary — unnecessary likely — unlikely

As we said antonyms are clearly defined opposites. When you picture the two antonyms in your head, they are 100% different from each other. Remember: there are no true animal antonyms, as 'cat' and 'dog' aren't opposites. We often talk about them like they are, but they both have fur, are cute and cuddly and are alive – so they can't be opposites.

Antonyms are important both in reading and in writing because they help people to discern the meaning of an unfamiliar word. By looking at the word's antonym, often the definition of the unfamiliar word becomes clear.

A great way to improve the quality of any piece of writing is to use both antonyms and synonyms. Antonyms help the writer to avoid repetition of words by providing different

ways to express the same message.

Antonyms also allow the writer to use different sentence structures, providing variety and creativity in a piece of writing. Synonyms provide words to use in writing that are more vivid and make the piece of writing more interesting and original. For example, consider the following sentence:

- "Winter in the Ukraine is cold."

Look at some examples of different ways that we could write the same sentence using antonyms and synonyms:

- *Winter in the United States is **frigid**, a big contrast to the **scorching** heat of the summer.*
- *Instead of **warm** and **tropical**, the winter in the United States is **chilly** and **brisk**.*
- *I prefer **sultry** summers to **frozen** winters.*

"Frigid," "chilly," "brisk," and "frozen" are all synonyms of **cold**. The words "scorching," "warm," "tropical," and "sultry" are all antonyms of **cold**.

If synonyms form whole, often numerous groups, antonyms are usually believed to appear in pairs. Yet, this is not quite true in reality. For instance, the adjective cold may be said to have warm for its second antonym, and sorrow may be very well contrasted with gaiety.



## TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATSION G'OYALAR



On the other hand, a polysemantic word may have an antonym (or several antonyms) for each of its meanings. So, the adjective *dull* has the antonyms interesting, amusing, entertaining for its meaning of “deficient in interest”, *clever, bright, capable* for its meaning of “deficient in intellect”, and *active* for the meaning of “deficient in activity”.

Antonymy is not evenly distributed among the categories of parts of speech. Most antonyms are adjectives which is natural because qualitative characteristics are easily compared and contrasted: high – low, wide – narrow, strong – weak, old – young, friendly – hostile.

Verbs take the second place, so far as antonymy is concerned. Yet, verbal pairs are fewer in number. Here are some of them: to lose – to find, to live – to die, to open – to close, to weep – to laugh.

Antonymic adverbs can be subdivided into two groups; a) adverbs derived from adjectives: warmly – coldly, merrily – sadly, loudly – softly; b) adverbs proper: now – then, here – there, ever – never, up – down, in – out.

Not so many years ago antonymy was not universally accepted as a linguistic problem, and the opposition within antonymic pairs was regarded as purely logical and finding no reflection in the semantic structures of these words. The contrast between heat and cold or big and small, said most scholars, is the contrast of things opposed by their very nature. When we were dealing with the problem of synonymy, we emphasized the fact that both the identity and differentiations in words called synonyms can be said to be encoded within their semantic structures. Can the same be said about antonyms? Modern research in the field of antonymy gives a positive answer to this question. Nowadays most scholars agree that in the semantic structures of all words, which regularly occur in antonymic pairs, a special antonymic connotation can be singled out. We are so used to coming across hot and cold together, in the same contexts, that even when we find hot alone, we cannot help subconsciously registering it as not cold, that is, contrast it to its missing antonym. The word possesses its full meaning for us not only due to its direct associations but also because we subconsciously oppose it to its antonym, with which it is regularly used, in this case to hot. Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that the semantic structure of hot can be said to include the antonymic connotation of “not cold”, and the semantic structure of enemy the connotation of “not a friend”.

It should be stressed once more that we are speaking only about those antonyms which are characterized by common occurrences, that is, which are regularly used in pairs. When two words frequently occur side by side in numerous contexts, subtle and complex associations between them are not at all unusual. These associations are naturally reflected in the word's semantic structures. Antonymic connotations are a special case of such “reflected associations”.





**References:**

1. Лексикология английского языка – Г.Б. Антрушина, 1999. (Antrushina G.B., English Lexicology, 1999) ix.gverdebi 209 – 224.
2. Ismatullayeva, N. R. (2019). Lacunas in Chinese and Uzbek languages and methods of their detection. *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering*, 8(12), 2095-2099.
3. Rasuljanovna, I. N. (2019). Lacunas Occurance In Semantic Fields Of Chinese And Uzbek Languages. *International Journal of Scientific & Technology Research*, 8(11), 1998-2001.
4. Rasuljanovna, I. N. (2020). The concept of “lacuna” in translation studies. *Asian Journal of Multidimensional Research (AJMR)*, 9(4), 123-129.
5. Rasuljanovna, I. N. (2020). The verbal lacunas in chinese and uzbeklanguages (on the example of grammatical and somatic lacunas). *ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, 10(5), 196-1700.
6. Ismatullayeva, N. R. Translation of phraseological units in Chinese and Uzbek languages. In *Scientific research of the SCO countries: synergy and integration (International conference). Beijing, PRC, June (Vol. 24, pp. 45-50).*
7. Usmanova, S. R., & Ismatullayeva, N. R. (2020). Expression Of Lacunas In Comparative Study Of Kinship Terms In Chinese And Uzbek Languages. *Solid State Technology*, 63(6), 4974-4985.
8. Rasuljanovna, I. N. (2019). The phenomenon of lacunarity as the linguacultural issue. *Prospects of world science-2019*, 226.