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Use of words

Homonyms

The word “homonym” comes from the prefix “homo”, meaning “the same”, and the suffix “-nym,” means “the name”. Hence, Homonyms are words that sound alike and have different meanings. They either **sound the same or are spelt the same, but their meanings are different.**

Homonym Examples:

1. Address – location/ to speak to
2. Bark – the sound of dogs/ tree’s outer layer
3. Band – a ring/ a musical group

Homophones

Homophones are a type of homonyms. They also **sound the same but have different meanings and have different spellings too.**

Homophones Examples:

1. Altar/ Alter
2. Berth/ Birth
3. Cast/ Caste
4. Days/ Daze
5. Earn/ Urn

Synonyms: (same meaning)

A synonym is a word/phrase, the **meaning of which is the same** or nearly the same as another word or phrase. Words that are synonyms are described as synonymous.

Synonym examples:

- Artful – Crafty
- Ballot – Poll
- Chorus – Refrain
- Deceptive – Misleading
- Enormous – immense

Antonyms: (‘anti’ meaning, opposites)

An antonym is a word/phrase **that means the opposite of another word** or phrase. Check the examples. Antonym examples:

- Admire – Detest
- Bravery – Cowardice
- Crooked – Straight
- Dainty – Clumsy
- Economise – Waste

Art of condensation

Summarizing, condensation, or précis writing is an art. It aims at squeezing the meaning of a text into the fewest words.

There are two ways of condensation:

- Comprehension and
- Précis writing

Comprehension

The word **comprehension** means understanding information and incorporating it into your own knowledge. ...

Précis is a French word that means **to cut short**. In English, it is connected with the word precise that means something accurately expressed.

Characteristics of the paragraphs:

- A précis must be a concise, complete or lucid piece of writing
- Précis means an abstract.
- A précis must contain the essence of the passage that has been squeezed.
- It is usually 1/3rd of the given words.
- The direct speeches should be avoided.
- The examples and the comparisons should be removed.
- It should be written in the past tense.
- Third person pronoun should be used.
- Main idea should be the title of the paragraph.
- Negative sentences should be made positive.

Class activity

- Writing a paragraph
- Précis of a paragraph

