

## Cuprins

<i>Cuvânt înainte</i> .....	7
<i>On Translation</i> .....	9
I. Homonymy .....	15
II. Synonyms and Antonyms .....	49
<i>Synonyms</i> .....	49
<i>Antonyms</i> .....	55
III. Idioms .....	61
<i>Similes</i> .....	77
IV. Translation (English-Romanian) .....	87
V. Version (Romanian-English) .....	177
<i>Key to exercises</i> .....	235
<i>Bibliography</i> .....	243

## ***Exercises***

**I. Which of the three given words is the closest in meaning to the word in italics and can appropriately replace it?**

1. characteristic – feature – quality  
The main *attribute* of this rope is its flexibility.
2. resistant – audacious – challenging  
There was something *defiant* about him that irritated me.
3. paucity – lack – deficit  
The shop was forced to close owing to a *shortage* of staff.
4. surmounted – outdid – surpassed  
The breakthrough *exceeded* even the most daring expectations.
5. cynically – scornfully – derisively  
Her Ladyship glared at them *contemptuously*.
6. euphoria – excitement – exhilaration  
His *elation* made all of us share the general cheerfulness.
7. dispossessed – bereft – divested  
He was *deprived* of everything that was his legally.
8. faultless – unblemished – perfect  
The crystal of this vase is *flawless*.
9. tough – severe – grim  
The *harsh* winter made driving difficult in that part of the region.
10. honest – impartial – just  
We all agreed it was a *fair* decision.
11. initially – basically – mainly  
He counted *primarily* on the readiness of his friends' help.

12. vain – complacent – smug  
She's too *conceited* to speak to ordinary people.
13. enticed – drew – decoyed  
The lake *lured* us with its veil of mystery.
14. thoughtful – wistful – sober  
He's been in a *pensive* mood lately.
15. counterfeit – hoax – imitation  
Don't be taken in by him ; the picture is a mere *fake*.
16. diligent – scrupulous – strict  
He is a highly *conscientious* lawyer.
17. sturdy – powerful – stalwart  
He was a *mighty* ruler people feared and respected as well.
18. door-keeper – guide – caretaker  
The thief sneaked in while the *usher* was dozing in his chair.
19. shivering – shaking – vibrating  
Everything started *quivering* when the earthquake began.
20. crushed – overwhelmed – defeated  
A *vanquished* leader is a pitiful figure.

**II. What word can best replace the one in italics in the following sentences? You are given the number of letters and the initial one. In several cases other solutions are also possible:**

1. He seemed hallmarked by *misery*/(u \_\_\_\_\_).
2. The Duchess was wearing a *priceless*/(i \_\_\_\_\_) necklace round her neck.
3. Nothing could calm down his seething *wrath*/(a \_\_\_\_\_).
4. He made no *endeavour*/(a \_\_\_\_\_) to overcome the difficulty.

5. Such shoes have become *obsolete*/(o \_\_\_\_\_).
6. They worked with *zeal*/(f \_\_\_\_\_) and pleasure.
7. His having left without a word is *unaccountable*/(fi \_\_\_\_\_).
8. We found it difficult to drive fast on that *uneven*/(b \_\_\_\_\_) road.
9. She was *stroking*/(c \_\_\_\_\_) the soft fur of her Siamese cat.
10. The *width*/(b \_\_\_\_\_) of the pool meets the standards for a world competition.
11. Whenever she watched the leaves fall she had a *wistful*/(m \_\_\_\_\_) gaze.
12. Her *cunning*/(a \_\_\_\_\_) smile didn't fool me again.
13. Eventually, he had to *yield*/(s \_\_\_\_\_) as he was alone among enemies.
14. He is always *bragging*/(b \_\_\_\_\_) and I can't stand it any more!
15. The *civility*/(p \_\_\_\_\_) of the two strangers took us in.
16. Everything turns *ultimately*/(f \_\_\_\_\_) into dust.
17. They stood *aghast*/(h \_\_\_\_\_) at the unexpected blow.
18. The writer ruthlessly satirised the *debauchery*/(d \_\_\_\_\_) of high society.
19. Nothing can grow on this *barren*/(i \_\_\_\_\_) land.
20. His criticism left me feeling rather *abashed*/(c \_\_\_\_\_).

**III. The Odd One Out. Although apparently all the four words grouped together are synonyms to the *prompt*, one does not fit in the semantic area the other three do. Cross it out:**

1. *boldness* : valiance – forwardness – bravery – courage
2. *sorry* : repentant – remorseful – contrite – distressed
3. *fresh* : brisk – energetic – crisp – bracing
4. *monstrous* : abnormal – hideous – grotesque – dreadful
5. *indifferent* : apathetic – disinterested – unconcerned – heedless
6. *direct* : frank – straightforward – explicit – undeviating
7. *plain* : simple – unadorned – evident – ordinary
8. *spread* : propagate – stretch – expand – unfold
9. *reserved* : reticent – engaged – unsociable – restrained
10. *engage* : enrol – hire – employ – pledge
11. *idle* : indolent – lazy – inactive – sluggish

12. *gross* : coarse – bulky – vulgar – crude
13. *void* : vacant – empty – blank – null
14. *waste* : squander – diminish – dissipate – consume
15. *lavish* : plentiful – abundant – prodigal – profuse
16. *foul* : base – filthy – soiled – impure
17. *false* : feigned – untrue – artificial – synthetic
18. *ease* : alleviate – relieve – appease – facilitate
19. *cover* : hide – protect – veil – mask
20. *common* : habitual – ordinary – mutual – regular

**IV. Translate into English making the right choice for the words written in italics:**

1. Există o culoare *anume* pe care ați prefera-o?  
particular – special – individual – specific – distinct
2. Trebuie să-și asume *partea* ei de vină.  
part – lot – share – ration – division
3. Potrivit testamentului său, nepotul este moștenitorul *legal*.  
legitimate – rightful – valid – proper – lawful
4. Din nefericire, accidentul a fost *mortal* pentru doi dintre ei.  
deadly – lethal – terminal – fatal – fateful
5. N-a avut *mustrări de conștiință* că ne-a înșelat pe toți.  
misgivings – qualms – doubts – scruples – pangs
6. Nu *exclud* posibilitatea că s-ar putea să mă înșel.  
deduct – lower – discount – overlook – ignore
7. A trebuit să-mi *contramandez* toate programările.  
annul – revoke – repeal – cancel – quash
8. Perspectiva *închiderii* fabricii a afectat moralul angajaților.  
close – stoppage – closing – cessation – closure

9. A fost aspru criticat pentru *neglijarea* datoriei într-un moment critic pentru firmă.  
disregard – neglect – oversight – slackness – negligence
10. La picioarele lor se cască un *hău* întunecat.  
void – gap – vacuum – emptiness – space
11. Deși pare incredibil, a câștigat concursul *pe drept*.  
properly – fairly – justly – duly – fittingly
12. Toți știam că e o minciună *sfruntată*, dar nu am scos un cuvânt.  
thorough – plain – downright – utter – outright
13. Ostaticii au trăit un *supliciu* umilitor și terifiant.  
suffering – trial – tribulation – hardship – ordeal
14. Nava era acum un simplu *punct* la orizont.  
mark – point – fleck – speck – whit
15. Am căzut în *extaz* în fața peisajului mirific al canionului.  
raptures – bliss – euphoria – joy – elation
16. Mă îndoiesc că orice șampon poate face părul atât de *lucios*.  
smooth – sleek – glitzy – shiny – radiant
17. Ultimul său roman are o intrigă foarte *complicată*.  
complex – puzzling – knotty – entangled – intricate
18. Noua lege este în *conformitate* cu reglementările internaționale recente.  
consent – complaisance – compliance – concurrence – coession
19. Eforturile noastre de a-i face să se împace s-au dovedit *zadarnice* până la urmă.  
unproductive – futile – worthless – inefficient – pointless

20. Cum ți-ai permis să lași copiii *nesupravegheați* atât timp?  
neglected – alone – untended – unattended – solitary

**V. Identify the ten groups of synonyms in the list below. Each group covers five adjectives:**

repugnant, lazy, thoughtless, vicious, elusive, frivolous, quarrelsome, persistent, rough, humble, idle, servile, flippant, resolute, paltry, inconsiderate, loathsome, slack, heedless, fleeting, shallow, peevish, dogged, reckless, menial, odious, slothful, shifty, contentious, assiduous, fierce, meek, repellent, sluggish, fallacious, rugged, pugnacious, unflagging, obnoxious, unmindful, obsequious, cruel, coarse, jagged, ferocious, evasive, petty, bickering, unkempt, savage.

## Antonyms

An antonym is a word that is opposite in meaning to another word. Quite often one and the same word, particularly an adjective, may have two or more opposites depending on the meaning it has got in a certain context (homonymy).

*Examples :* *fair/unfair* decision  
*fair/dark* complexion  
*fair/ugly* woman  
*fair/excellent* skill  
*fair/stormy* weather

## Exercises

**I. What word is the opposite of the word in italics? You are given the first word and the number of letters:**

1. She made a *brief*/(1 \_\_\_\_\_) account of the accident.
2. The child found a piece of *glassy*/(m \_\_\_\_) rock among the pebbles.
3. I don't feel like meeting her ; I dislike her *verbose*/(l \_\_\_\_\_) speech.
4. He *squandered*/(e \_\_\_\_\_) all the money he won by betting on that horse.