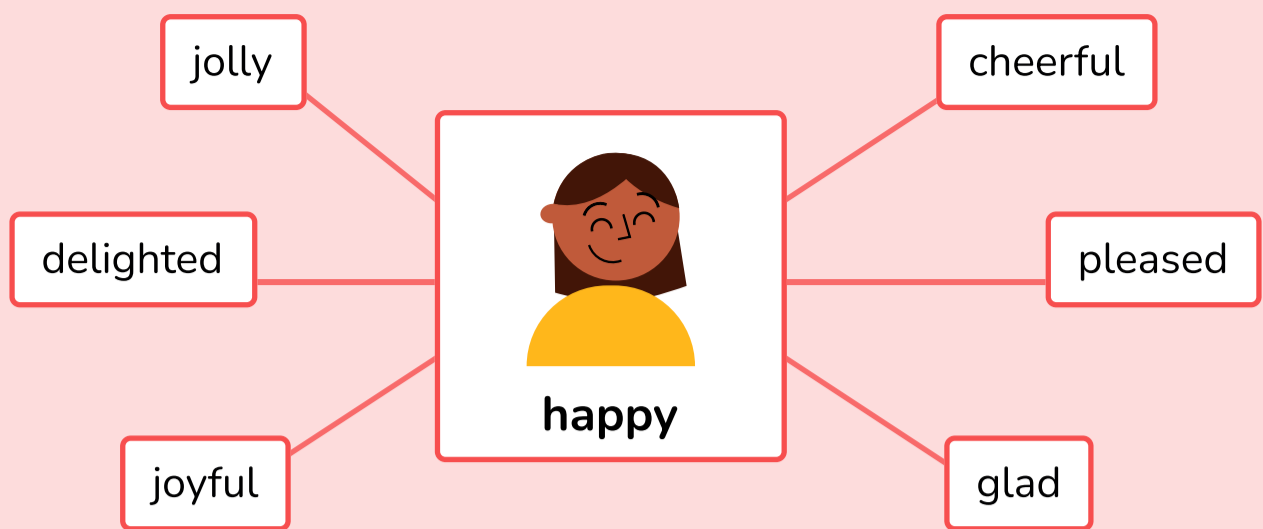




Synonyms

Synonyms are words that have the **same meaning**. Below are synonyms for 'happy':



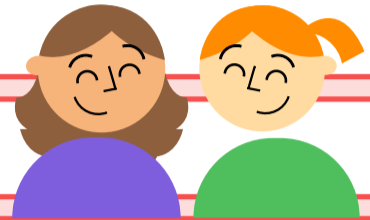
Remember!

If you can replace one word in a sentence with another without the meaning of the sentence changing, the words are **synonyms**!

Example

1 The students were **happy** to be back at school.

2 The students were **delighted** to be back at school.



Sentences 1 and 2 mean the same thing. This means that 'happy' and 'delighted' are **synonyms**!



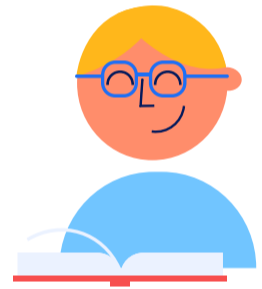
Top Tips!

★ Synonyms always share the same **grammatical properties**. This includes **part of speech** and any **grammatical endings** like '-ed' on past tense verbs.

'Happy' is an **adjective**, so its synonyms must also be **adjectives**. However, whilst 'jolly' is a synonym of 'happy', 'jollier' is not because of its 'er' ending.

★ To find the **BEST** synonym of a word, think about **nuance**. Nuance means slight differences in meaning.

For example, someone who is '**delighted**' is much happier than someone who is '**pleased**'.



★ The best way to learn more synonyms is to **read widely**. Check out our recommendations [here](#)!



Example Question

Which word can replace 'shocked' in the sentence below?



Ato was **shocked** to discover that they had no eyebrows.

- A baffling
- B dismayed
- C panicking
- D astonished
- E offended

1 Synonyms will always belong to the same **part of speech**. In this sentence, 'shocked' is a **verb**, so our answer must also be a **verb**!

'Baffling' is an **adjective**, so we can rule out **A**.

2 Synonyms will have the same **grammatical properties**. 'Shocked' is a **past tense verb**.

'Panicking' is a **present progressive verb**, so we can rule out **C**.

3 Now let's think about the subtle differences in **meaning** between the words.

If someone is 'dismayed' or 'offended', they are upset or unhappy. Ato isn't sad about having no eyebrows, merely surprised. We can rule out **B** and **E**.

✓ The correct answer is **D**, 'astonished'.

'Astonished' and 'shocked' both mean 'very surprised'. Let's try replacing 'shocked' in our sentence...

Ato was **astonished** to discover that he had no eyebrows.

The meaning of the sentence has not changed, so 'astonished' and 'shocked' are **synonyms**!