

## Synonyms

A synonym is a word that has the same (or very similar) meaning as another word. For example, "large" and "big" are synonyms.

To help the student remember vocabulary words and their synonyms, develop a series of flash cards. Write a word on one side of the flash card and its synonym on the other side. The following is an example of a flash card:

Front: small

Back: tiny

Be sure that both words are at the appropriate level. Vocabulary words can be taken from the student's textbooks or from a teacher's vocabulary list.

Examples of synonyms include:

placid - calm

hyperbole - exaggeration

augment - enlarge

concur – agree

likelihood - probability

compute - calculate

dry - arid

opportunity - possibility

image - picture

extraneous - nonessential

hazardous - dangerous

particular - specific

Notice that the synonym pairs above all have similar meanings and come from the same part of speech. "Placid and calm" are both adjectives, while "augment and enlarge" are both verbs.

When a student is reading a passage, one way to see if a word is a synonym for another word is to replace the word in the passage with it. For example, in the sentence, "The lake was so placid that it looked like glass," if you replace the word "placid" with the word "calm," you would find that it "fits." Both words are adjectives.