

Adjectives: opposites

I can use a variety of adjectives.

1 Match the adjectives below to make pairs of opposites.

awful different difficult expensive fantastic good large low new safe true wrong

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 bad _____ | 7 terrible _____ |
| 2 great _____ | 8 high _____ |
| 3 similar _____ | 9 old _____ |
| 4 easy _____ | 10 right _____ |
| 5 cheap _____ | 11 dangerous _____ |
| 6 false _____ | 12 small _____ |

2 Complete the sentences with adjectives from exercise 1.

- Don't play with that knife. It isn't _____.
- £500 for a jacket? That's _____!
- The shelf is very _____. I have to stand on a chair to reach it.
- Well done! All the answers in your test are _____.
- British English is a bit _____ from American English.
- That calculation is very _____. I can't do it.
- Joe says he's seventeen. But that isn't _____. He's only fifteen.

3 Complete the adjectives. Use a, e, i, o, u and y. Which prefix do we add to make the adjectives negative?

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 fr ____ ndl ____ | 5 us ____ l ____ |
| 2 k ____ nd ____ | 6 n ____ c ____ ss ____ r ____ |
| 3 h ____ pp ____ | 7 c ____ mf ____ rt ____ bl ____ |
| 4 t ____ d ____ | |
- Negative prefix: _____

4 Complete the labels with negative forms of adjectives from exercise 3.



- 1 an _____
chair



- 2 an _____
room



- 3 an _____
flower



- 4 an _____
child



- 5 an _____
boy

5 Choose three adjectives from exercises 1 and 3 that you could use to describe these things. Try not to use any adjective more than once.

A a pair of jeans

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

B a city

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

C an exercise

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

D the weather

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

E a classmate

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

VOCAB BOOST!



In entries for adjectives in most learner's dictionaries you can often find the adjective with the opposite meaning. When you look up an adjective, make a note of the opposite too, if it is given.

6 Read the Vocab boost! box. Then study the dictionary entries below. Complete the pairs of adjectives.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 awake | Opposite: _____ |
| 2 late | Opposite: _____ |
| 3 beautiful | Opposite: _____ |
| 4 thick | Opposite: _____ |
| 5 near | Opposite: _____ |
| 6 soft | Opposite: _____ |

awake /ə'weɪk/ adjective not sleeping: The children are still awake. > opposite **asleep**

early /'ɜ:li/ adjective before the usual or right time: The train arrived ten minutes early. > opposite **late**

ugly /'ʌgli/ adjective not pleasant to look at: The house was really ugly. > opposite **beautiful**

thick /θɪk/ adjective far from one side to the other: The walls are very thick. > opposite **thin**

far² /fɑ:(r)/ adjective a long way away: Let's walk – it's not far. > opposite **near**

hard¹ /hɑ:d/ adjective not soft: These apples are very hard. > opposite **soft**