

ONE WORD AND ANOTHER

A BOOK OF SYNONYMS
WITH EXPLANATIONS AND EXAMPLES



LONGMANS, GREEN AND CO
LONDON ♦ NEW YORK ♦ TORONTO

**ONE WORD AND
ANOTHER**

By the same Author:

THE CHOICE OF WORDS

TO
MY WIFE

who often
when authorities differed or were silent
and I was in doubt
gave a casting vote

PREFACE

THE aim of this book, similar to that of *The Choice of Words*, is to help speakers and writers by giving concise explanations, supported by examples, of the distinctions in meaning of a number of common synonyms whose use is often confused.

The Delegates of the Clarendon Press have again granted generous leave for the numerous quotations from the Oxford dictionaries and H. W. Fowler's *Modern English Usage*.

To Mr. G. H. Vallins I am deeply indebted for an immense amount of valuable help, general and detailed, destructive and constructive. I am also grateful for help kindly given me by Mr. Martin Concannon, Dr. R. W. Chapman, Dr. Sydney J. Cole, Mr. E. Gold, Professor Frank Huntley, Mr. I. R. Collins, Mrs. Honor Croome, Dr. Arundell Esdaile, Mr. D. Evans, Mrs. Nancy Henry, Mr. Kenneth Sisam, Mr. Ivan Tudor.

Frequent reference is made to the following books:

Sir Ernest Gowers: *A B C of Plain Words*

Eric Partridge: *Usage and Abusage*

H. A. Treble and G. H. Vallins: *An A B C of English Usage*

The following abbreviations are used:

C.O.D. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current Usage*

S.O.E.D. *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*

O.E.D. *The Oxford English Dictionary*

M.E.U. *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage*, by H. W. Fowler

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LIST OF WORD GROUPS.

- 1 about, around, round about
- 2 about: (1) approximately, proximately, roughly, somewhat, in the neighbourhood of, of the order of; (2) concerning
- 3 acceptance, acceptation
- 4 accumulate, amass, hoard
- 5 actually
- 6 adherence, adhesion
- 7 adumbrate: (1) sketch, outline; (2) foreshadow
- 8 advantage, benefit
- 9 advisably, advisedly
- 10 advise, recommend
- 11 aeroplane, airplane, aircraft
- 12 aggregate, total
- 13 agnosticism, atheism, theism, deism
- 14 ago, since
- 15 also, and
- 16 America, United States
- 17 anatomy, body, torso, trunk
- 18 ancestor, forefather, forbear (forebear), progenitor
- 19 angle, point of view, standpoint, viewpoint, aspect, slant
- 20 angry, irate, wroth, wrathful, enraged, furious
- 21 animadversion, blame, censure
- 22 answer, reply
- 23 appeasement, pacification
- 24 apt, liable, prone
- 25 aptness, aptitude
- 26 art, artistry
- 27 as, for, because, since
- 28 as, than
- 29 as, so
- 30 as follows, as follow
- 31 as to
- 32 aside, apart

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd*

- 33 ask, enquire
- 34 assignment, appointment
- 35 astronomical, enormous
- 36 at last, at long last
- 37 at that, moreover, also, too
- 38 attention, heed
- 39 audacity, temerity
- 40 aught, anything, ought
- 41 author, authoress
- 42 autumn, fall
- 43 avid, eager, greedy
- 44 backward, backwards; downward, downwards; forward,
forwards; inward, inwards; onward, onwards; outward,
outwards; upward, upwards
- 45 base, basis
- 46 beautiful, lovely, beauteous
- 47 bed, couch, sofa, chesterfield, settee, divan
- 48 befall, happen, occur, come about, transpire
- 49 before, previously, prior, previous
- 50 below, under, beneath, underneath
- 51 benignity, benignancy
- 52 berate, scold, chide
- 53 beside, besides
- 54 better, ameliorate, improve
- 55 bibliography
- 56 bid, offer, attempt
- 57 bitch, lady-dog
- 58 black, blacken
- 59 both
- 60 bottle-neck, obstruction
- 61 brain, brains
- 62 Britain, Great Britain
- 63 brochure, pamphlet, booklet
- 64 calculate, reckon, estimate
- 65 cancel, abrogate, rescind, annul, revoke
- 66 capacity
- 67 carry on, continue
- 68 case
- 69 casualty, accident

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 70 cause, occasion
- 71 chastise, castigate
- 72 cheerful, cheery
- 73 choose, select
- 74 chronic, lasting
- 75 circumstances: in, under
- 76 clamant, insistent, urgent
- 77 collect, fetch, get
- 78 comfortably, easily
- 79 comic, comical
- 80 coming, forthcoming
- 81 committal, commitment
- 82 compare to, compare with
- 83 compelling, compulsive
- 84 considerable, appreciable
- 85 consideration, considerateness
- 86 consort, associate
- 87 content, contentment, contentedness
- 88 context, circumstances
- 89 contiguous, adjacent
- 90 co-operation, collaboration, collusion
- 91 corpulent, stout
- 92 correspond: to, with
- 93 corset(s), stays
- 94 credence, credit
- 95 damsel, maiden, maid, lass, girl; lad, youth, boy
- 96 deadly, mortal, fatal, lethal
- 97 decided, decisive
- 98 deposit, put
- 99 derisive, derisory
- 100 description, nature, character, kind, sort
- 101 despite, in spite of
- 102 diatribe, denunciation
- 103 difference, differentiation
- 104 different, distinctive, original
- 105 dire, direful, dreadful, calamitous
- 106 directly, direct
- 107 disincentive, deterrent, discouragement
- 108 dislike, hate, abhor, loathe

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 109 dividend, profit, advantage, benefit
- 110 double, dual, dualistic
- 111 dress, attire
- 112 drink, beverage
- 113 dub, call, name
- 114 due to, through, owing to, on account of
- 115 eastward, eastwards
- 116 economic, economical
- 117 educationist, educationalist
- 118 effect, accomplish, effectuate
- 119 efficient, effective, effectual, efficacious
- 120 elect, choose, decide
- 121 England, Britain, Great Britain, British Empire, British Commonwealth of Nations, Commonwealth; English, British; Englishman, Briton
- 122 enormousness, enormity
- 123 (Nouns) enough, sufficient, sufficiency, sufficiency; (Adjectives) enough, sufficient, adequate, ample
- 124 envy, covet
- 125 erstwhile, whilom, sometime, quondam, formerly, ex-
- 126 escaper, escapee
- 127 essay, attempt
- 128 etc., *et al.*
- 129 evaluate, criticize
- 130 ever, every
- 131 evidence, exhibit, show
- 132 exacerbate, aggravate, irritate
- 133 example, instance, model
- 134 except, excepting
- 135 exceptional, exceptionable
- 136 exciting, interesting
- 137 exculpate, exonerate, acquit
- 138 executive, officer, official
- 139 fabulous, wonderful
- 140 face, face up to
- 141 fact
- 142 factor, cause
- 143 fallacy, error, mistake, blunder
- 144 fantastic

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 145 farther, further; farthest, furthest
- 146 fatal, fateful
- 147 fear, be frightened of, dread, apprehend
- 148 fear, fright, dread, timorousness, trepidation, awe, apprehension
- 149 fearful, frightened, timorous, apprehensive
- 150 feature, show
- 151 find, find out, discover, ascertain
- 152 finish, end, complete, finalize
- 153 first, firstly
- 154 first two, two first
- 155 floor, storey
- 156 fly, flee
- 157 forbid, prohibit
- 158 forgather, assemble, meet together
- 159 former, late
- 160 forthright, straightforward, outspoken
- 161 fraction, part
- 162 fragile, frail
- 163 from, as from
- 164 function, ceremony
- 165 fundamental, basic
- 166 furthermore, further, moreover, besides, more
- 167 gesture, act
- 168 gigantic, colossal
- 169 grant, give
- 170 gratuitous, free
- 171 grudge, begrudge
- 172 guess, conjecture, surmise
- 173 habit, habitude
- 174 handwriting, calligraphy
- 175 he, him, one; his, one's
- 176 heat, hot, heat up, hot up
- 177 hebetude, stupidity
- 178 (Verbs) help, assist, aid; (Nouns) (a) help, assistance, aid;
(b) helper, assistant, help
- 179 hence
- 180 henceforward, henceforth
- 181 here-, this

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 182 hereabout, hereabouts
- 183 hinder, hamper, impede, retard
- 184 historical, historic
- 185 house, accommodate, keep, store
- 186 house, home
- 187 hundred, hundreds, etc.
- 188 hurry, hurry up, hasten, accelerate, expedite, speed up
- 189 hurt, pain
- 190 I, me; he, him; she, her; they, them; we, us
- 191 idiosyncrasy
- 192 if and when
- 193 if, whether
- 194 ilk
- 195 ill, sick, unwell, indisposed, ailing, sickly, poorly
- 196 illiterate
- 197 impertinent, irrelevant, impudent, cheeky
- 198 in, on
- 199 incontinently, immediately, directly, at once, forthwith
- 200 inelastic, unelastic
- 201 inhibit
- 202 inmost, innermost
- 203 inst., ult., prox., of even date
- 204 instead, in lieu
- 205 integrate
- 206 intermediary, mediator, go-between, middleman
- 207 investigate, examine, enquire (into), probe
- 208 involve, entail, mean
- 209 issue
- 210 lapse, elapse
- 211 last, final
- 212 lately, latterly, recently
- 213 latter, later
- 214 lavatory, toilet, water-closet
- 215 layman, amateur
- 216 less, lesser
- 217 like, alike, similar, kin, akin
- 218 limited
- 219 lingerie, underclothes, underwear
- 220 locate, situate, establish

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 221 location, place, locale
- 222 loose, loosen, unloose
- 223 lyric, lyrical
- 224 magic, magical
- 225 major, greater, great
- 226 malignity, malignancy
- 227 massive, massy
- 228 masterful, masterly
- 229 maternal, motherly; paternal, fatherly
- 230 mean, ungenerous, parsimonious, stingy, close, niggardly,
penurious
- 231 measure, amount, degree
- 232 meet, meet with, encounter
- 233 mendacity, untruthfulness, lying
- 234 mercenary, venial
- 235 minimum, minimal
- 236 minor, smaller, small
- 237 mirror, looking-glass, glass
- 238 monocle, eyeglass
- 239 moot: (1) debatable; (2) raise
- 240 moral, morale
- 241 morning, forenoon
- 242 musical
- 243 naught, nought
- 244 near, near to, nigh
- 245 near, nearly, nigh
- 246 necessary, necessity
- 247 negligent, neglectful
- 248 new, novel
- 249 normality, normal, norm, normalcy
- 250 northward, northwards
- 251 not, -n't
- 252 not too
- 253 noxious, obnoxious
- 254 nurse, nanny
- 255 O, Oh
- 256 oblige, compel, force, constrain
- 257 obliged, beholden
- 258 obsession, complex

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 259 offence, umbrage
- 260 older, elder
- 261 on time, in time
- 262 on to, onto
- 263 once, when, if
- 264 once in a way, once and away
- 265 onus, burden, load
- 266 opine, think
- 267 opinionated, opinionative, opiniative, opinative
- 268 oppose, resist, antagonize
- 269 optimum, best
- 270 origin, provenance
- 271 outsmart, outwit
- 272 over, above
- 273 oversea, overseas
- 274 overwhelming
- 275 own
- 276 pack, package
- 277 painter, paintress
- 278 parlous, perilous
- 279 partly, partially
- 280 past, after
- 281 peaceable, peaceful
- 282 pen, indite, write, compose
- 283 pen-name, pseudonym, *nom de plume*
- 284 per, by, a, via, through
- 285 perchance, perhaps
- 286 personal
- 287 persons, people
- 288 place, put, position, post
- 289 pleasant, pleasing, pleasurable, gratifying
- 290 plentiful; plenteous
- 291 plusage, increase
- 292 poet, poetess
- 293 poetical, poetic
- 294 poorness, poverty
- 295 posit, assume, postulate
- 296 predicament, plight, quandary, dilemma
- 297 prophesy, predict, foretell, forecast

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 298 prefabricate, fabricate
- 299 present, gift
- 300 process, manufacture, produce
- 301 proportion, proportions
- 302 provocative
- 303 psychical, psychic
- 304 publish, publicize
- 305 quaff, drink
- 306 query, question
- 307 quick, fast, speedy
- 308 quiet, quiescent
- 309 quiet, quieten
- 310 quit, leave
- 311 quite, all
- 312 rare, scarce, in short supply
- 313 rather, somewhat
- 314 real
- 315 recipient, receiver
- 316 refuse, decline, reject
- 317 rehearse, relate, state
- 318 relation, relationship
- 319 relation, relative
- 320 repairable, reparable, remediable
- 321 repellent, repulsive
- 322 repetitive, repetitious, repetitionary, repetitional
- 323 replete, full, filled
- 324 request, ask, tell, order, command, instruct, beg, pray
- 325 resolution, resolve, resoluteness
- 326 resulting, resultant
- 327 revolutionary, revolutionist
- 328 rewarding, remunerative, profitable, gainful, lucrative
- 329 rifle, gun, pistol, revolver, cannon
- 330 rise, arise
- 331 rouse, arouse
- 332 ruin, ruination
- 333 sally forth, set out
- 334 same, similar, analogous
- 335 sample, specimen
- 336 schedule

LIST OF WORD GROUPS—*contd.*

- 337 scotch
- 338 sensibility, sensitiveness, sensitivity
- 339 sentiment, sentimentality, sentimentalism
- 340 servant, maid, help, daily woman, domestic
- 341 simplicity, simpleness
- 342 sincere, deep, profound, heartfelt
- 343 sitting-room, lounge, living-room, drawing-room, dining-room
- 344 sizable, large
- 345 slack, slacken
- 346 slip up, blunder
- 347 slippery, slippy
- 348 so, therefore, consequently, accordingly, wherefore
- 349 so, very, much
- 350 sort, sort out
- 351 southward, southwards
- 352 speciality, specialty
- 353 sponsor, supporter
- 354 sport, game
- 355 spouse, husband, wife
- 356 stay, stop
- 357 stop, arrest
- 358 streamlined, smooth
- 359 subject, theme, topic
- 360 subsequently, afterwards, after, later
- 361 subsequently, subsequent, after
- 362 substantial, material
- 363 suitable, appropriate, proper
- 364 Sunday, Sabbath
- 365 (Verbs) surprise, astonish, amaze; (Nouns) surprise, astonishment, amazement, amaze
- 366 surrounding, surround
- 367 suspension, suspense
- 368 symptomatic, characteristic, typical, significant
- 369 synchronize
- 370 teenager
- 371 thence; whence
- 372 thenceforth
- 373 there-, that; where-, which, what