

# LESSON 3: MASTERING SYNONYMS THE RIGHT WAY

## Lesson Objectives

1. Understand the role of synonyms in paraphrasing.
2. Avoid common mistakes with synonyms.
3. Learn how to check synonyms for accuracy and collocation.
4. Practice synonym use in IELTS contexts.



Avoid repetition.



Add variety and academic style.



Strengthen lexical resource score.

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## WHY SYNONYMS MATTER

Wrong nuance: “*childish*”  
≠ “*childlike*.”

Wrong collocation:  
“*powerful rain*” ❌ →  
“*heavy rain*” ✅.

Overuse: too many fancy  
synonyms = confusing.

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## THE DANGERS OF MISUSING SYNONYMS

# SYNONYMS & IELTS WRITING

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Instead of  
repeating:  
*“important,  
important,  
important.”*

Use: *“essential,  
significant, vital,  
crucial.”*

Example sentence:  
*“Education plays a  
vital role in shaping  
society.”*

# SYNONYMS & IELTS SPEAKING

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Sound natural,  
not artificial.

Example:

Weak: *"I am  
very happy."*

Strong: *"I am  
delighted."* or  
*"I am thrilled."*

# SYNONYM CHECKING TOOLS

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1

Use reliable dictionaries (Cambridge, Collins).

2

Check **collocations** before using.

3

Practice with corpora or vocabulary sites.

# WHEN NOT TO USE SYNONYMS

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Technical terms  
(carbon footprint,  
global warming)-  
keep original.

Common simple  
words-  
sometimes best  
left as is.

Forcing synonyms  
may change  
meaning.

# STRATEGIES FOR MASTERING SYNONYMS

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Keep a “synonym journal.”



Group words by topic: Education, Health, Technology.



Review and recycle regularly.

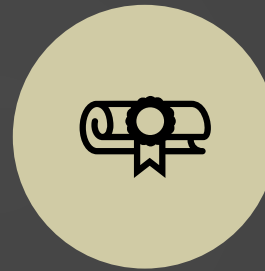


# STUDENT ACTIVITY

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Replace underlined words with correct synonyms:



*“The exam was very **hard**.”*



*“Many students have **big** problems managing time.”*



*“Teachers give **good** advice.”*

