Antonyms

Antonyms are words belonging to the same part of speech, identical in style, expressing contrary of contradictory notions.

Antonyms

absolute or **root antonyms**
(late - early)

derivational antonyms
(to please - to displease,
honest - dishonest,
professional - nonprofessional)

different roots

same roots but different affixes

1. Negative prefixes **(un-; dis-; non-)** form antonyms:

Un-: *un*true
Dis-: *dis*like
Non-: *non*reactive

2. Sometimes they are formed by means of antonymous suffixes **-ful** and **-less**

-ful: *pain*ful
-less: *pain*less

The antonym of the adjective with the suffix *-ful* is formed by means of the prefix **un-**:

success**ful** **–** **un****successful**

The antonym of the adjective with the suffix *-less* is formed with the help of the suffix *–ish*:

self**less** **- self****ish**

The same is true about antonyms with negative prefixes

e.g. **to man** is not an antonym of the word **to unman**;
        to disappoint is not an antonym of the word **to appoint**.

The difference between derivational and root antonyms is not only in their structure, but in semantics as well.

Derivational antonyms	Absolute antonyms
express contradictory notions, one of them excludes the other	express contrary notions. If some notions can be arranged in a group of more than two members, the most distant members of the group will be absolute antonyms
e.g. *active - inactive*	e.g. ugly, plain, good-looking, pretty, beautiful

Leonard Lipka in the book *Outline of English Lexicology* describes different types of oppositeness, and subdivides them into three types:

✔ **complementarity,** e.g. *male - female, married – single;*
✔ **antonyms,** e.g. *good – bad*
✔ **converseness,** e.g. *to buy - to sell.*

Complementarity

In his classification he describes complementarity in the following way: the denial of the one implies the assertion of the other, and vice versa.

John is not married = John is single

The type of oppositeness is based on yes/no decision. Incompatibility only concerns pairs of lexical units.

Antonyms

It's distinguished from complementarity by being based on different logical relationships. The assertion containing one member implies the negation of the other, but not vice versa.

John is good = John is not bad
John is not good ≠ John is bad

The negation of one term doesn't necessarily implies the assertion of the other.

An important linguistic difference from complementaries is that antonyms are always fully gradable, e.g. *hot, warm, tepid, cold.*

Converseness

1. ***Converseness*** is mirror-image relations or functions:

e.g. *husband – wife, pupil - teacher, precede - follow, above - below, before - after etc.*

Jonh bought the car from Bill = Bill sold the car to John

2.. Also in the *comparative* form:

Y is smaller than X = X is larger than Y.

L.Lipka also points out non-binary contrast or many-member lexical sets. Here he points out serially ordered sets, such as

• scales *(hot, warm, tepid, cold, cool);*
• colour words *(black, grey, white);*
• military ranks *(marshal, general, colonel, major, captain etc.)*
•gradable examination marks *(excellent, good ,average, fair, poor)*

In such sets of words we can have outer and inner pairs of antonyms.

He also points out cycles, such as units of tie:

(spring, summer, autumn, winter)

In this case there are no outermost members.

Not every word in language can have antonyms. This type of opposition can be met **in qualitative adjective and their derivatives**

e.g. *beautiful - ugly,*
     to beautify - to uglify,
     beauty – ugliness

It can be also met **in words denoting feelings and states**

e.g. *respect - scorn,*   *to live - to die,*
     to respect- to scorn,   *alive - dead,*
     respectful – scornful   *life - death*

Itcan be also met among **words denoting direction in space and time**

e.g. *here - there,*   *up - down,*
     now - never,   *before - after*
     day - night,   *early - late*   etc.

If a word is **polysemantic**,
it can have several antonyms

e.g. the word *bright* has the antonyms:

dim, dull, sad.

Thank you for your attention!