*Similar Synonyms?!*

**Synonym:**

*A word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language.*

It is important to recognise that not all synonyms have *exactly* the same meaning. Sometimes they are *nearly* the same. Consider the words ‘discuss’ and ‘chat’. These are considered to be synonyms, however, they do not have exactly the same meaning.

Think about how the following sentence has a different meaning if we interchange these synonyms:

*Tara’s boss wanted her to come into the office to discuss her work.*

*Tara’s boss wanted her to come into the office to chat about her work.*

This activity gets you to look up synonyms for a particular word. You are then required to outline why these words are synonyms (that is, how are they similar), but also consider how they are slightly different.

Example #1

**famous**

Synonyms: popular, prominent

Definitions: popular (well-liked by a large number of people), prominent (instantly recognisable or well-known)

Why these words are synonyms: both of these words suggest that the person or thing has a level of fame

Why these words are slightly different: the word popular suggests that the person or thing has a lot of fans or support, while prominent suggests the person or thing is well-known, but not necessarily liked.

Example #2

**habit**

My chosen synonyms: pattern, tradition

Definitions: pattern (an action or behaviour that is repeated on a regular basis), tradition (a way of thinking or behaving that a particular group of people have been doing for a long time)

Why these words are synonyms: both of these words suggest that an action or behaviour is repeated

Why these words are slightly different: the word ‘pattern’ is less formal, suggests that the habit could belong to just one person and that is could be a small habit (such as going for a walk every night). The word ‘tradition’ is more formal, suggests that more than one person is involved in the habit and that it is usually a larger celebration (such as eating Christmas lunch as a family every year).

**Your Task:**

1. Read our Word Wall words (listed below) and the two synonyms associated with each
2. Look up dictionary definition of each synonym and record in your own words.
3. Explain why these words are synonyms.
4. Explain why these words are slightly different.
5. Use each synonym in a sentence that demonstrates these slight differences.

***Enemy (rival, competitor)***

***Interrupt (block, obstruct)***

***Numb (senseless, deaden)***

***Ogre (giant, monster)***

***Muffled (soften, stifle)***

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| Word #1: |
| Synonyms: |
| Definition of each synonym: |
| Why these words are synonyms: |
| Why these words are slightly different: |
| Sentences: |

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| Word #2: |
| Synonyms: |
| Definition of each synonym: |
| Why these words are synonyms: |
| Why these words are slightly different: |
| Sentences: |

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| Word #3: |
| Synonyms: |
| Definition of each synonym: |
| Why these words are synonyms: |
| Why these words are slightly different: |
| Sentences: |

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| Word #4: |
| Synonyms: |
| Definition of each synonym: |
| Why these words are synonyms: |
| Why these words are slightly different: |
| Sentences: |

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| Word #5: |
| Synonyms: |
| Definition of each synonym: |
| Why these words are synonyms: |
| Why these words are slightly different: |
| Sentences: |