

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

- synonyms:** words with similar meanings
- antonyms:** words with opposite meanings
- thesaurus:** a reference book that lists synonyms and antonyms
- connotation:** what a word suggests, not what it actually means
- context:** the words and sentences that surround a word

Step 1: Read the set of synonyms listed below. Note that the words have similar meanings but do not mean exactly the same thing.

loudness, shrillness, clatter, racket, noise, hubbub, uproar, roar, blast, boom, thunder

Step 2: Read these sentences, which show two of the synonyms used in context.

- The roar of the crowd encouraged them to play their best.
- When we heard the sudden racket on the street, we ran to the window.

Step 3. Notice the different connotations of these synonyms.

- In the first sentence, *roar* conveys positive connotations and suggests that the enthusiasm of the crowd will help carry the team to victory.
- In the second sentence, *racket* carries negative connotations and suggests something unpleasant or dangerous.

Step 4. Read through these pairs of antonyms. roar/hush racket/silence

- In the sentences in **Step 2** above, substitute *hush* for *roar* and *silence* for *racket*. Notice the power of these antonyms to convey a meaning opposite that of the original sentences.

Step 5: Use a dictionary or a thesaurus to locate synonyms and antonyms. These reference sources will help you find exactly the right word to say what you mean.