

DOUBLE DUTY WORDS

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The vocabulary of English contains anywhere from three-quarters of a million to one million words - by far the largest in the history of humankind. Despite this impressive accomplishment, many words in English have to do double duty and convey more than one meaning. As a result, one word can function as the opposite of two very different words.

To see this process at work, try the following quiz. Fill in each blank with a word that is opposite in meaning to the word in the left-hand column and the different word in the right-hand column. Then check your responses against those that appear in **Answers and Solutions**. Example: light is the opposite of heavy and of dark.

1. loud	hard
2. young	new
3. wrong	left
4. tall	long
5. smooth	gentle
6. even	normal
7. sharp	interesting
8. costly	enslaved
9. bring	give
10. rich	excellent
11. win	find
12. soft	easy
13. past	absent
14. foul	dark
15. stop	come
16. sharp	bumpy
17. spend	imperil
18. good	healthy
19. thick	fat
20. major	adult
21. common	well done
22. coarse	sick
23. loose	slow
24. stale	polite
25. unbiased	complete
26. front	forth
27. sane	happy
28. rise	spring