LONGEST ENGLISH WORD THEREIN

inadvertent

Professor

tch example

perchance,

or ad nauseam humdrum

with bold-

astefulness,

Similarities

prefixing:

own above?

; are their

must always

, free from


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
2. young
3. wrong
4. tall
5. smooth
6. even
7. sharp
8. costly
9. bring
10. rich
11. win
12. soft
13. past
14. foul
15. stop
16. sharp
17. spend
18. good
19. thick
20. major
21. common
22. coarse
23. loose
24. stale
25. unbiased
26. front
27. sane
28. rise

hard
new
left
long
gentle
normal
interesting
enslaved
give
excellent
find
easy
absent
dark
come
bumpy
imperil
healthy
fat
adult
well done
sick
slow
polite
complete
forth
happy
spring