

SURPRISINGLY RELATED SYNONYMS

(More Strange Bedfellows)

ANIL

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It's no surprise these pairs are synonyms, they have a common origin or part origin. But they surely don't look it. They are what linguists call doublets, words with a common ancient ancestor but arriving at the present form via different paths. Doublets usually arrive at different meanings, while mine double back to the same meaning. They are a special class of strange bedfellows ('10-150), pairs of words with deceptively related etymologically. Pairs often share only a piece of their spelling from a common ancestor, with other parts being unrelated. While most of the below are reversible synonyms, some are one-way definitions or descriptions only.

SRS are nice complements to my coincidental self-synonyms ('04-45, 129), words with two same or close meanings from different roots. For example, **net** means gain/obtain in two senses: catch fish (Germanic, prob. <L. *nodus*); and make as a clear profit (<neat [clear], OE <Fris/Ir).

Pairs up first are so different that they have no common letters in crash positions of relevance or in embedded core phonemes. Crash means the same letter (or phoneme) or sound in the same position in both words. Here comparable position applies. The rest, up second, have crashes but are still surprising and don't really look related.

This study is based mostly on the 1966 edition of Eric Partridge's *Origins* etymology dictionary. Most pairs are distantly related and won't be found together in regular dictionaries' brief etymologies. I include tenuous relationships, Partridge's "probable," "perhaps," etc, treating them as if definite, denying any pretense of rigorous scholarship, aiming only to amuse or bemuse.

1. Etymologically Related Synonyms with NO CRASHES

accident: chance

advent: coming

adventures: wayward voyager byways (crashes within definition but not with headword)

brew: ferment

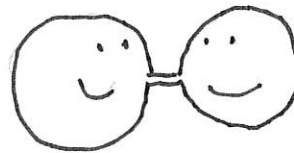
chair: seat

communicable: catching

conjugation: zygotis bacterial sex

diary: journal

elite: privileged



eyed: oculate

food: 1 repast; 2 pasture fodder

hemp: cannabis

indigenous: native

kickshaw: whatnot

lachrymose: tearful

lanyard: noose



syzygy: joint

vigil: watch-wait

zero: cipher dated synonyms

level: equilibrate

occult: clandestine: concealed

odious: noisome

pretext: 'tissue'

since: thus because: causing

sun: Helios

vertical: upward

water: aqua: H₂O via hydrogen

Zeus: Jupiter (Jove)

2. Synonyms WITH CRASHES, but still surprising; 2a. single pairs

ail: ache

benign: gentle

buoy: beacon (figurative)

condone: pardon

denial: negativity

gradual: progressive

handle: manage

homology: sameness

incident: occasion

integrity: intactness

mangle: maim

ornery: insubordinate

pen: feather quill

protract: drag

attenuate: thin

brotherhood: fraternity

capture: catch

contend: maintain

genre: kind

grotto: crypt

higgledy-piggledy: haywire

implemented: accomplished

instead: as substitute

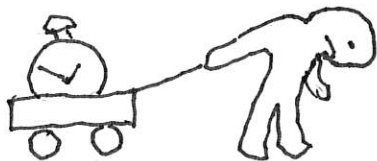
juvenile: youth

mellow: mild

painting: picture

prison: penitentiary

push: propel



right: correct

shovel: scoop

sustained: continued

taciturn: reticent

tame: domesticated

tenor: toner (anagram)

unguent: ointment

verbose: wordy

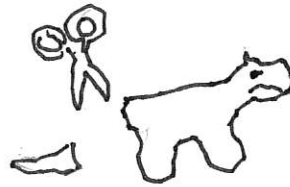
vice: wickedness

wardrobe: garments

widowed: vidual

scratch: grate

shorten: curtail



violin: fiddle

wick: village

zest: gusto

2b. Multiples, longs, special cases

ascertain: critically discern discrete criteria

borough: burrow group residences (homophones)

bottom: 1 foundation; 2 bum

break: 1 fracture; 2 burst

communication interceptions: captured precepts espionage, bugs, hacks, mail theft, etc.



cooking: kitchen concoction

cybernetics: government control systems

duty: debt shared double meanings—tax + responsibilities

flood: Fluctuating flow inflates, surfs. (Influences effluent influenza influx!)

Few surprises but a flowing self-definition. Flu added for chills & thrills and social relevance.

foul: filthy: purulent: putrid

garden: 1 orchard; 2 yard (Oz usage)

laughter: layer's litter A laughter, no joke, is a clutch ('litter') of eggs; the layer is the hen.

nexus: connection node

plane: flat place (a plain?)

stable: stationary: still: stolid: staid: steady: persisting: staying: stalled:

standing: consistent: retained/maintained: continuous/continued

strange bedfellows record, 15 ~synonyms

tranquil: quiet: coy (dated)

votary: devout devotee monk etc.

vade (go): mosey: vamoose: invade: wade: waddle forms of moving, bipedal or optional

yodel: jubilant yowl

wind: fanned air