

Skill 2 Synonyms

Using synonyms will provide variety in your essay. This variety will keep the reader interested and is an important element in paraphrasing. In addition, synonyms connect ideas across paragraphs without repeating the same word. This helps make your writing more cohesive.

Read the paragraph below. Look for synonyms of *bad*.

bad: poor unpleasant awful terrible

The gym at my school is very old and is in bad condition. It needs a lot of repairs. The roof leaks and the swimming pool has cracks. The locker rooms are unpleasant because everything in them is so old. The exercise room is in a very poor state. The floors and walls are awful and most of the equipment is broken. The basketball court is also in a terrible state of repair and should be entirely renovated.

Practice

Read each paragraph. Replace the second underlined word with a synonym from the box.

| | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------|--------|------|-------------|------------|
| benefits | construct | draw | duties | easy | imaginative | sufficient |
|----------|-----------|------|--------|------|-------------|------------|

- A good teacher is creative. He can develop interesting activities for his students because he is creative.

creative synonym: _____
- The library we have now is adequate for our needs. It has adequate space for books and other materials.

adequate synonym: _____
- A family pet gives children the opportunity to take on responsibilities. Children can be assigned daily responsibilities such as feeding the cat or walking the dog.

responsibilities synonym: _____
- A shopping mall would make shopping much more convenient for everyone in my neighborhood. This would be good for the stores because people tend to spend more money when shopping is convenient.

convenient synonym: _____
- Small schools have several advantages over large schools. One of the most important advantages is that children get more individual attention.

advantages synonym: _____

6. I think it is an excellent idea to build a shopping mall in my neighborhood. If we build new stores, we will all have better places to shop.

build synonym: _____

7. It isn't always easy to attract good teachers to small schools. Larger schools tend to attract the better teachers.

attract synonym: _____

Skill 3 Pronouns

Using pronouns to refer to nouns provides variety in your essay and helps the reader make connections. It is important to make sure that your pronouns agree in number and person and that they are the right part of speech.

Tip Understanding pronoun reference is an important skill in reading as well as in your writing. The Reading section often includes questions about pronoun reference.

Pronouns

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|--------|
| Subject: | I | you | he | she | it | we | they |
| | | this | that | these | those | | |
| Object: | me | you | him | her | it | us | them |
| | | this | that | these | those | | |
| Possessive adj.: | my | your | his | her | its | our | their |
| Possessive: | mine | yours | his | hers | its | ours | theirs |

Practice

Find the noun that each underlined pronoun refers to.

I believe a new shopping mall would be welcome in my neighborhood. It would give people here a convenient place to shop. Right now, people in my neighborhood have to travel to the other side of town to do most of their shopping. A local shopping mall would make things much more convenient for all of us. For years, the mayor of our city has been talking about encouraging stores to locate in this part of town. So far, she has done nothing about this situation. This is something that has been very frustrating for my father and other older people. He would be very happy to have this problem solved by the construction of a new shopping mall.