

Instructions for Annotators

Two words are *synonyms* if they have very similar meanings. Synonyms represent the same *type* or category of thing. Here are some examples of synonym pairs:

- *cup / mug*
- *glasses / spectacles*
- *envy / jealousy*

In practice, word pairs that are not exactly synonymous may still be very *similar*. Here are some very similar pairs – we could say they are nearly synonyms:

- *alligator / crocodile*
- *love / affection*
- *frog / toad*

In contrast, although the following word pairs are *related*, they are not very similar. The words represent entirely different types of thing:

- *car / tire*
- *car / motorway*
- *car / crash*

In this survey, you are asked to compare word pairs and to rate how *similar* they are on a scale of 0-10 (0 denotes word pairs which are not similar at all, 10 denotes very similar word pairs). Remember, things that are related are not necessarily similar.

If you are ever unsure, think back to the examples of synonymous pairs (*glasses / spectacles*), and consider how close the words are (or are not) to being synonymous.

There is no right answer to these questions. It is perfectly reasonable to use your intuition or gut feeling as a native English speaker, especially when you are asked to rate word pairs that you think are not similar at all.