

# Happiness and Unhappiness

## WORD LIST

anguish	blithe	congenial	defiant	desolate
despondent	disgruntled	disillusion	exuberant	gratification

There are lots of ways to describe how you feel. In this lesson, you will learn words that express happiness and unhappiness.

- 1. anguish** (ăng'gwish) from Latin *angustus*, "narrow"

  - noun** Great physical or mental pain; torment; torture.
    - The thought of their missing child filled the parents with **anguish**.
  - verb** To suffer emotional pain.
    - The patient **anguished** over which cancer treatment to choose.
- 2. blithe** (blith) *adjective*  
Cheerful; carefree; lighthearted

  - Unconcerned about onlookers, the **blithe** teens gossiped and giggled as they walked down the street.

**blithely** *adverb* The dog played **blithely** with its new toy.
- 3. congenial** (kən-jēn'yəl) *adjective*  
Friendly; having a pleasant disposition

  - His boyish charm and **congenial** manner helped him win votes.

**congeniality** *noun* The restaurant hostess's **congeniality** made patrons feel at home.
- 4. defiant** (dī-fī'ənt) *adjective* from Old French *desfier*, "to challenge"  
Openly or boldly resisting authority

  - Defiant** workers gathered in the street to protest unfair treatment.

**defy** *verb* Alex **defied** his father by staying out past his curfew.

**defiance** *noun* In a show of **defiance**, the crowd refused to disperse.
- 5. desolate** (dēs'ə-līt) *adjective* from Latin *desolare*, "to leave all alone"

  - Lonely and sad.
    - When her three best friends moved away, the girl felt **desolate**.
  - Having little or no life or vegetation; barren.
    - The plane flew over a vast and **desolate** desert.

**desolation** *noun* Alone on the desert island, he was overcome with feelings of **desolation**.

"Filled with *anguish*" and "*anguish* over" are common expressions.

*Congenial* can describe people with similar personalities or tastes.



desolate

6. **despondent** (dī-spōn´dānt) *adjective* from Latin *despondere*, “to give up”  
In low spirits; depressed; dejected  
• The artist Vincent Van Gogh became **despondent** when people rejected his paintings.
7. **disgruntled** (dīs-grūn´tlđ) *adjective* from Middle English *grunten*, “to grunt”  
Discontented; resentful  
• The **disgruntled** employee complained to the personnel office when he failed to get promoted.
8. **disillusion** (dīs´i-lōō´zhən) *verb* from Latin *dis-*, “remove” + *ludere*, “to play”  
To disappoint someone by breaking his or her belief in a false ideal  
• If you expect the people you admire to be perfect, you may soon be **disillusioned**.  
**disillusionment** *noun* Young Antonio’s **disillusionment**, after meeting the obviously fake Santa Claus, kept him awake all night.
9. **exuberant** (ĭg-zōō´bər-ənt) *adjective* from Latin *exuberare*, “to be abundant”  
Filled with enthusiasm and joy  
• **Exuberant** after returning from a long tour of duty, the naval officer hugged her family members.  
**exuberance** *noun* The crowd cheered in wild **exuberance** when their baseball team scored the winning run.
10. **gratification** (grāt´ə-fĭ-kā´shən) *noun* from Latin *gratus*, “pleasing”  
Satisfaction; a feeling of being rewarded for one’s efforts  
• Their son’s success brought **gratification** to the parents, who had struggled to put him through school.  
**gratify** *verb* Dr. Bass was **gratified** that many former students remembered her.

## WORD ENRICHMENT

### The Latin word for play

The Latin verb *ludere*, meaning “to play,” is found in a variety of English words. When we have an *illusion*, we believe something false, as though someone is tricking, or playing, with us. *Disillusion* means “to take away play,” bringing someone back to reality. The word *ludicrous* means “ridiculous,” as though we are laughing at silly child’s play.