



Words to use instead of 'nice'



The word 'nice' can be used to describe something enjoyable or a friendly person. Using it in writing or speaking is ... well, *nice*. But it's not **great**, **fantastic** or **amazing**. Even in schools in Great Britain, pupils are asked to avoid using the word 'nice', but sometimes it is hard to think of a better equivalent!

1 Look at the groups of words. In each group, there are three synonyms and one opposite word of 'nice'. Cross out the opposite words.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. friendly delightful awful pleasant | 5. brilliant imperfect magnificent astonishing |
| 2. superior unacceptable superb great | 6. kind swell gentle atrocious |
| 3. fantastic charming inferior terrific | 7. marvelous satisfying wonderful despicable |
| 4. dreadful considerate lovely amazing | 8. lousy excellent exceptional ace |

2 Read the beginning of the story below. Cross out every 'nice' and replace it with one of the words from 1. Write the new word above the 'nice'.

Once upon a time, there was an old lady who was very nice. She lived in a nice house that had a nice garden. She had a dog who was always nice to everyone. On a nice, sunny evening, she went into her garden to watch the sunset. The birds were singing a nice song as they went into their nests. Suddenly, the nice atmosphere was interrupted by a knock on the door. The lady went to the door and opened it. She was greeted by a nice, big smile. It was her granddaughter. She had baked a cake and wanted to give her grandma a piece. "That is so nice of you!", said the lady. Unfortunately, her granddaughter couldn't stay for long. So the lady took the piece of cake and went back into the garden to eat it. The cake was so nice! The lady sat with her dog, watching the sunset and eating the cake. "What a nice day it has been!", she thought to herself, before she saw something in the far distance ...

3 Write the next part of the story. Use as many words from 1 as possible. Then swap your text with a partner. How many synonyms of 'nice' did they use?



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2 Read the beginning of the story below. Cross out every 'nice' and replace it with one of the words from 1. Write the new word above the 'nice'. Pay attention to 'a. and 'an.!

Example solution

Once upon a time, there was an old lady who was very ~~nice~~^{friendly}. She lived in a ~~nice~~^{terrific} house that had a ~~nice~~^{an amazing} garden. She had a dog who was always ~~nice~~^{kind} to everyone. On a ~~nice~~^{pleasant} sunny evening, she went into her garden to watch the sunset. The birds were singing a ~~nice~~^{delightful} song as they went into their nests. Suddenly, the ~~nice~~^{superb} atmosphere was interrupted by a knock on the door. The lady went to the door and opened it. She was greeted by a ~~nice~~^{charming} big smile. It was her granddaughter. She had baked a cake and wanted to give her grandma a piece. "That is so ~~nice~~^{lovely} of you!", said the lady. Unfortunately, her granddaughter couldn't stay for long. So the lady took the piece of cake and went back into the garden to eat it. The cake was so ~~nice~~^{satisfying}! The lady sat with her dog, watching the sunset and eating the cake. "What a ~~nice~~^{magnificent} day it has been!", she thought to herself, before she saw something in the far distance ...

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