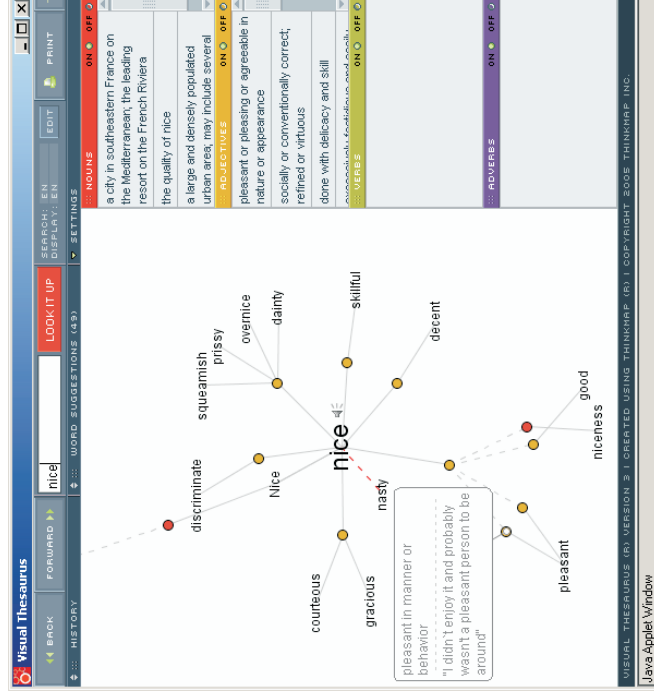


Some Online Synonym Tools

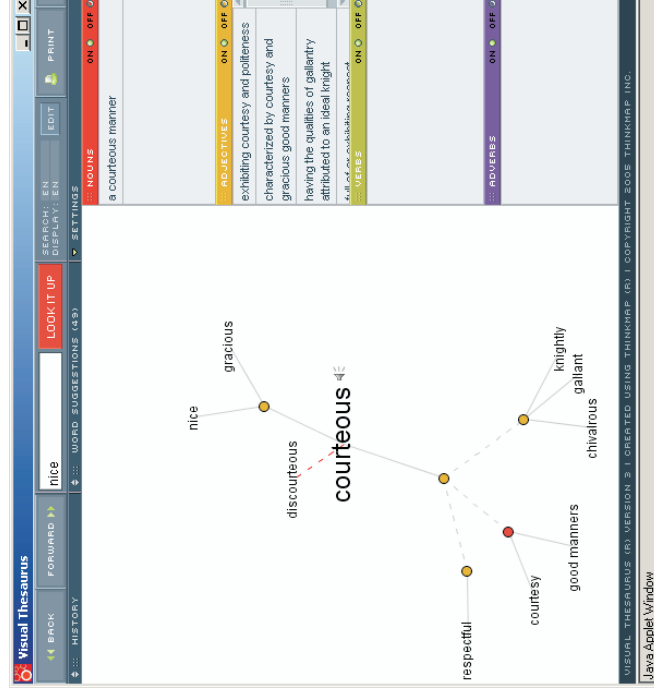
Visual Thesaurus

<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/>

This is a sample version of the program only, but it can be used for up to about six hits each time you open it. It is not expensive to buy as free-standing software or for internet access.



Once your keyword is in the centre and its related words gather themselves in a web around it, you can click on any word, and it moves into the centre and its own web forms around it.



For teachers, worksheets can be downloaded from the homepage: click on [Educator Resources](#).



WordSketch Engine

<http://www.corpora.fi.muni.cz/bnc/> or
<http://www.sketchengine.co.uk/sampler/>

Click on the *Thesaurus* button, enter the word you want synonyms for and you get a screen like this. This distribution thesaurus is calculated on the fly according to some of the characteristics of the word.

The screenshot shows the WordSketch Engine interface with the word "famous" selected. The interface displays a list of related words and their associated scores, categorized by various characteristics. The scores are color-coded: blue for positive, red for negative, and green for neutral.

Word	Score
well-known	0.304
infamous	0.239
prominent	0.214
distinguished	0.214
celebrated	0.195
controversial	0.183
favourite	0.25
leading	0.223
top	0.195
english	0.244
modern	0.237
american	0.232
contemporary	0.228
italian	0.228
popular	0.225
successful	0.218
traditional	0.211
french	0.207
powerful	0.205
british	0.198
professional	0.194
irish	0.192
german	0.19
scottish	0.181
japanese	0.177
numerous	0.239
original	0.224
recent	0.202
typical	0.185
major	0.179
various	0.176
whole	0.173
important	0.172
early	0.172
beautiful	0.231
wonderful	0.219
magnificent	0.215
interesting	0.211
lovely	0.208
brilliant	0.203
remarkable	0.199
impressive	0.195
excellent	0.195
dramatic	0.185
attractive	0.178
fascinating	0.178
splendid	0.175
charming	0.174
classic	0.22
ancient	0.212
medieval	0.192
classical	0.191
familiar	0.213
romantic	0.178
fine	0.208
great	0.205
big	0.197
historic	0.181
outstanding	0.174
greatest	0.176

Click on an underlined word and it will take you to Sketch Differences where you can see similarities and differences in usage between the search word and the synonym.

Note: this works only for nouns, verbs and adjectives.

The screenshot shows the "famous/well-known" distribution thesaurus interface. It displays a list of words and their associated scores, categorized by various characteristics. The scores are color-coded: blue for positive, red for negative, and green for neutral.

Word	Score
famous	21
well-known	14
pp_throughout_p	16
world	2
pp_subject	294
world	18
town	6
adj_comp_of	146
become	87
make	49
pp_adj_comp_of	53
make	24
pp_for_p	325
beauty	6
minute	8
work	8
most	1294
less	8
internationally	24
justly	17
more	24
very	57
now	38
equally	14
so	21
as	22
once	12
already	13
quite	11
also	6
particularly	5
really	5
too	5
modifiers	4508
grouse	15
landmark	22
name	113
personality	11
victory	40
plurals	29
brand	9
example	42
figure	22
dichotomy	7
writer	20
actor	18
essay	15
footballer	9
painting	24
passage	20
fact	9
actress	11
poem	17
manufacturer	9

For more information on this, go to sections 7 & 8 of *Getting started with the Sketch Engine*:

<http://www.sketchengine.co.uk/Sketch-Engine-User-Gui.htm>



Wordnet

<http://poets.notredame.ac.jp/cgi-bin/wn/>

The first results you get from a search in Wordnet, is the different senses of your search word.

WordNet 2.1 Vocabulary Helper: agree - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

Overview of verb agree

The verb agree has 7 senses (first 4 from tagged texts)

- 1. (63) **agree**, hold, concur, concord -- (be in accord; be in agreement; "We **agreed** on the terms of the settlement"; "I can't **agree** with you!"; "I hold with those who say life is sacred"; "Both philosophers concord on this point")
- 2. (25) **agree** -- (consent or assent to a condition, or **agree** to do something; "She **agreed** to all my conditions"; "He **agreed** to leave her alone")
- 3. (4) match, fit, correspond, check, jibe, gibe, tally, **agree** -- (be compatible, similar or consistent; coincide in their characteristics; "The two stories don't **agree** in many details"; "The handwriting checks with the signature on the check"; "The suspect's fingerprints don't match those on the gun")
- 4. (1) harmonize, harmonise, consort, accord, concord, fit in, **agree** -- (go together; "The colors don't harmonize"; "Their ideas concor**de**d")
- 5. **agree** -- (show grammatical agreement; "Subjects and verbs must always **agree** in English")
- 6. **agree** -- (be agreeable or suitable; "White wine doesn't **agree** with me")
- 7. **agree** -- (achieve harmony of opinion, feeling, or purpose; "No two of my colleagues would **agree** on whom to elect chairman")

Done

Wordnet offers a wide range of words and their relationships. The lexical relations that follow, such as synonym, hyponym, antonym, are subdivided according to each of the word's senses.

One of the most useful is *hyponyms*, and for verbs, *troponyms*. These help us avoid using the same word repeatedly: synonyms are often seen as a remedy to this, but are often mutually exclusive because of the very features that distinguish them from each other.

WordNet 2.1 Vocabulary Helper: agree - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

Troponyms (hyponyms) of verb agree

5 of 7 senses of agree

Sense 1

agree, hold, concur, concord -- (be in accord; be in agreement; "We **agreed** on the terms of the settlement"; "I can't **agree** with you!"; "I hold with those who say life is sacred"; "Both philosophers concord on this point")

- settle -- (end a legal dispute by arriving at a settlement; "The two parties finally settled")
- reconcile, patch up, make up, conciliate, settle -- (come to terms; "After some discussion we finally made up")
- see eye to eye -- (be in agreement; "We never saw eye to eye on this question")
- concede, yield, grant -- (be willing to concede; "I grant you this much")
- subscribe, support -- (adopt as a belief; "I subscribe to your view on abortion")
- conclude, resolve -- (reach a conclusion after a discussion or deliberation)
- arrange, fix up -- (make arrangements for; "Can you arrange a meeting with the President?")

Sense 2

agree -- (consent or assent to a condition, or **agree** to do something; "She **agreed** to all my conditions"; "He **agreed** to leave her alone")

- plea-bargain -- (**agree** to plead guilty in return for a lesser charge; "If the plea-bargains, he will be sent to a medium-security prison for 8 years")
- bargain -- (come to terms; arrive at an agreement)
- assent, accede, acquiesce -- (to **agree** or express agreement; "The Maastricht request for an **assent**")

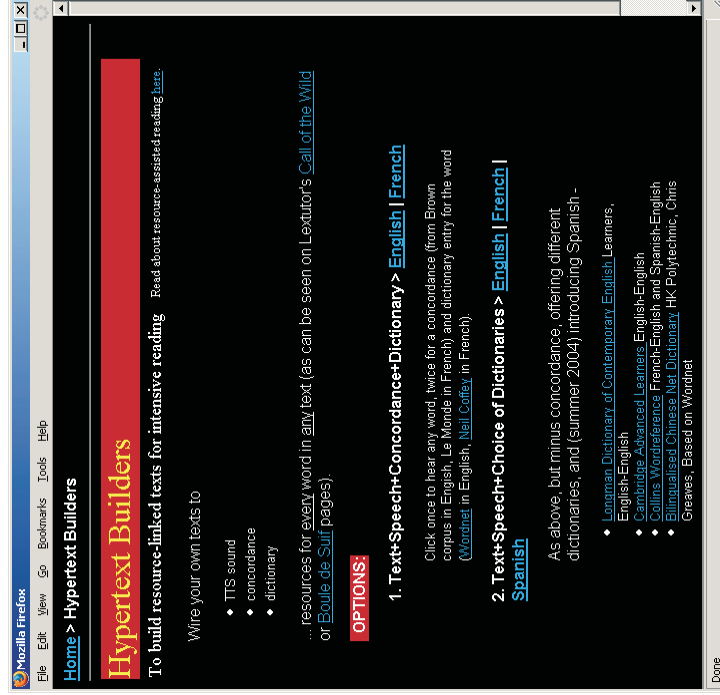
Done

Hyponyms are often a better option as can be seen in these examples from the British National Corpus: vehicle → car

- » upon her getting out of the car, they manoeuvred the vehicle so as to . . .
- » whether it be ratings out of 10, defects per vehicle or warranty costs on each car leaving the factory gate
- » Heron, which builds houses, owns petrol stations and imports Suzuki vehicles as well as selling other cars including Rolls-Royce

Hypertext Builder

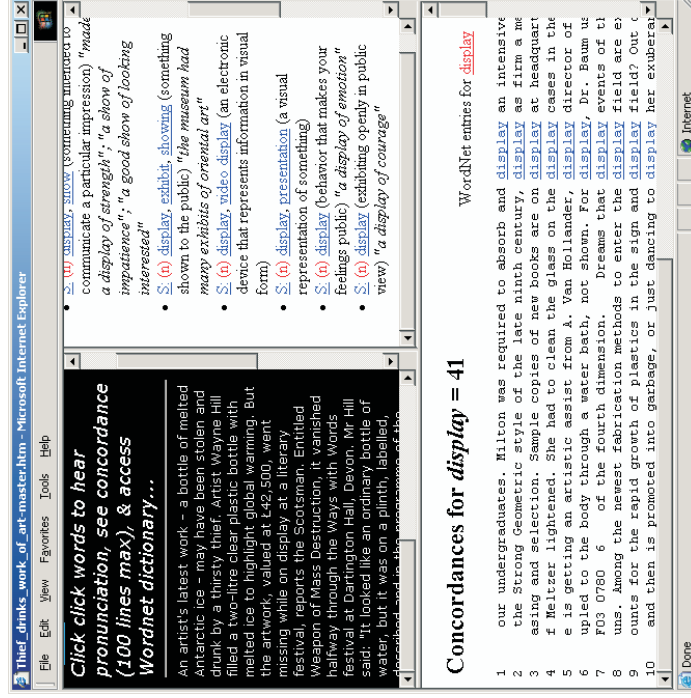
<http://132.208.224.131/hypertext/>



Once the teacher enters a text, each word can be automatically made available for looking up in a learner dictionary or a corpus. As well, the Wordnet entries for a target word can be displayed. The student only has to click on a word.

After you click the *Build* button, you get a URL to paste into a webpage to make it accessible for your students.

Note: if you paste this into the Nicenet, you need to delete the HTML code — only paste the actual URL.



It remains on the web for six months.

