

Antipathies and Aversions

1. Antipathy is a feeling of strong dislike or opposition towards something. EX: Antipathy towards the government has increased in recent years.
2. Hostile or unsympathetic are adjectives that describe this condition. EX: More people are hostile to government now than in the past. Many are unsympathetic with the pressures congressmen feel.
3. Aversion is a feeling of intense dislike or unwillingness to do something. EX: I felt an aversion to the hotel manager as soon as he came into the room with his greasy hair and sly looks.
4. Averse to means opposed to, usually used with not. EX: I'm not averse to a couple of glasses of wine, but I don't approve of drunkenness.

More words for intense negative feelings are in the chart below. Read their meanings and use each part of speech in a sentence.

Noun	Meaning	Adjective	Verb
loathing	intense hatred	loathsome	loathe
abhorrence	intense disgust	abhorrent	abhor
scorn	lack of respect for something or someone felt to be worthless	scornful	scorn
revulsion	strong disgust	revolting	revolt
repulsion	opposite of strong attraction	repulsive	repulse

There is a reality TV show where people have to eat revolting things. What things would be on your list of revolting food? What food do you eat that others might think is revolting? Anyone eat duck embryos, snails or fried tarantulas?

Adjectives with negative associations:

1. bland-lacking taste, character or interest. Do you prefer bland food or spicy food?
2. dowdy-dull in appearance or lacking style. Sometimes I wear dowdy clothing around the house. What is your idea of dowdy clothing?
3. fickle-changing opinions suddenly without reason. Has anyone ever accused you of being fickle? Do you think women change their minds more than men?
4. fuddy-duddy- old fashioned. Sometimes I accuse my husband of being an old fuddy-duddy because he likes to wear baggy slacks even though the styles are tight pants. Am I wrong to accuse him? Do you make your spouse wear stylish clothing?
5. nit-picking- too concerned about unimportant details. Are you a nit-picker? Do you insist that the job be done perfectly. What is the opposite of a nit-picker? Which is worse: a nit-picker or someone who doesn't do a thorough job?
6. obsequious- too eager to praise or obey. In some cultures this trait might be valued. Is it in your culture? Is it in American culture?
7. ostentatious-displaying wealth. Many Americans go in for ostentatious displays of wealth. In other cultures that would be very bad. Humility is more valued. How does your culture compare to American culture in this way?

Talk to the group for 2 or 3 minutes about one of these topics. Teachers: Make sure everyone has a chance to do this.

- 1-Something you loathe doing.
- 2-Smells you find abhorrent and smells you love.
- 3-Pet aversions-any pets you would refuse to keep.
- 4-The most ostentatious display of wealth you have ever seen.
- 5-Should we show respect to a person's opinions even if we find them abhorrent? Is there ever a time you should speak up about abhorrent opinions?

Teachers: If you have more time, ask the students about themselves. Where are they from? What is their career? How long do they expect to live here? ETC.