

Positive nouns that start with Y

28 nouns with meanings and examples. Updated 10 October 2026. Free to print and share in a classroom.

Yarn n.

An entertaining story, especially one told with lively detail.
Grandpa told a warm yarn about his first day at sea.

Yass n.

An emphatic expression of delight, approval, or encouragement.
A yass greeted the final flourish of her solo.

Yay n.

A cheerful expression of approval, triumph, or delight.
A yay followed the announcement of free library cards.

Yearning n.

A deep and sincere desire for something meaningful.
Her yearning to learn led her back to evening classes.

Yeeshaw n.

An exuberant shout of delight, excitement, or triumph.
A yeeshaw rang out when the rider finished cleanly.

Yen n.

A strong desire to do or experience something.
He developed a yen for travel after studying world history.

Yes n.

An affirmative answer or expression of agreement.
A clear yes gave the project permission to begin.

Yesteryear n.

A past time remembered with affection or interest.
The exhibit revived the handmade toys of yesteryear.

Yippee n.

An exuberant expression of joy, delight, or triumph.
One yippee escaped before the children opened their presents.

Ylang-ylang n.

A tropical flower valued for its rich, sweet fragrance.
A few ylang-ylang blossoms scented the evening garden.

Yock n.

A hearty laugh or a joke that prompts one.
His impression earned a warm yock from the cast.

Yodeling n.

Singing that rapidly alternates between a natural and a high voice.
Cheerful yodeling echoed across the festival grounds.

Yoga n.

A practice using movement, breathing, and attention to support well-being.
Morning yoga helped her begin the day with calm focus.

Yogi n.

A person who practices yoga with sustained commitment.
The experienced yogi guided the class through a gentle sequence.

Yogin n.

A person devoted to sustained yoga practice.
The yogin began each dawn with breathing and meditation.

Yogini n.

A woman committed to the practice or mastery of yoga.
The yogini guided beginners through a calm breathing sequence.

Yokefellow n.

A close companion who shares work, purpose, or responsibility.
She found a loyal yokefellow in her workshop partner.

Yokemate n.

A trusted companion sharing work or purpose.
Each climber checked that their yokemate had enough water.

Yokozuna n.

A sumo wrestler who has earned the sport's highest rank.
The new yokozuna accepted the title with quiet humility.

Young blood n.

Younger members whose fresh energy and ideas renew a group.
The committee welcomed young blood before planning its next decade.

Young gun n.

A talented, ambitious newcomer likely to succeed.
The young gun earned respect with thoughtful questions and steady work.

Youth n.

The early period of life associated with growth and possibility.
The program gives local youth a place to build practical skills.

Youthfulness n.

The quality of having youthful energy, freshness, or spirit.
Her youthfulness showed in her delight at every discovery.

Yugen n.

A deep awareness of mysterious beauty that words cannot fully express.
The moonlit garden gave the quiet scene a sense of yugen.

Yule n.

The festive Christmas or midwinter celebration.
Neighbors gathered for Yule with lanterns, music, and shared bread.

Yuletide n.

The festive season surrounding Christmas and midwinter.
Yuletide filled the square with choirs and glowing windows.

Yum-yum n.

An expression of pleasurable satisfaction with delicious food.

A delighted yum-yum followed the first spoonful of pudding.

Yumminess n.

The quality of tasting or smelling especially pleasing.

Roasted garlic added warmth and yumminess to the soup.