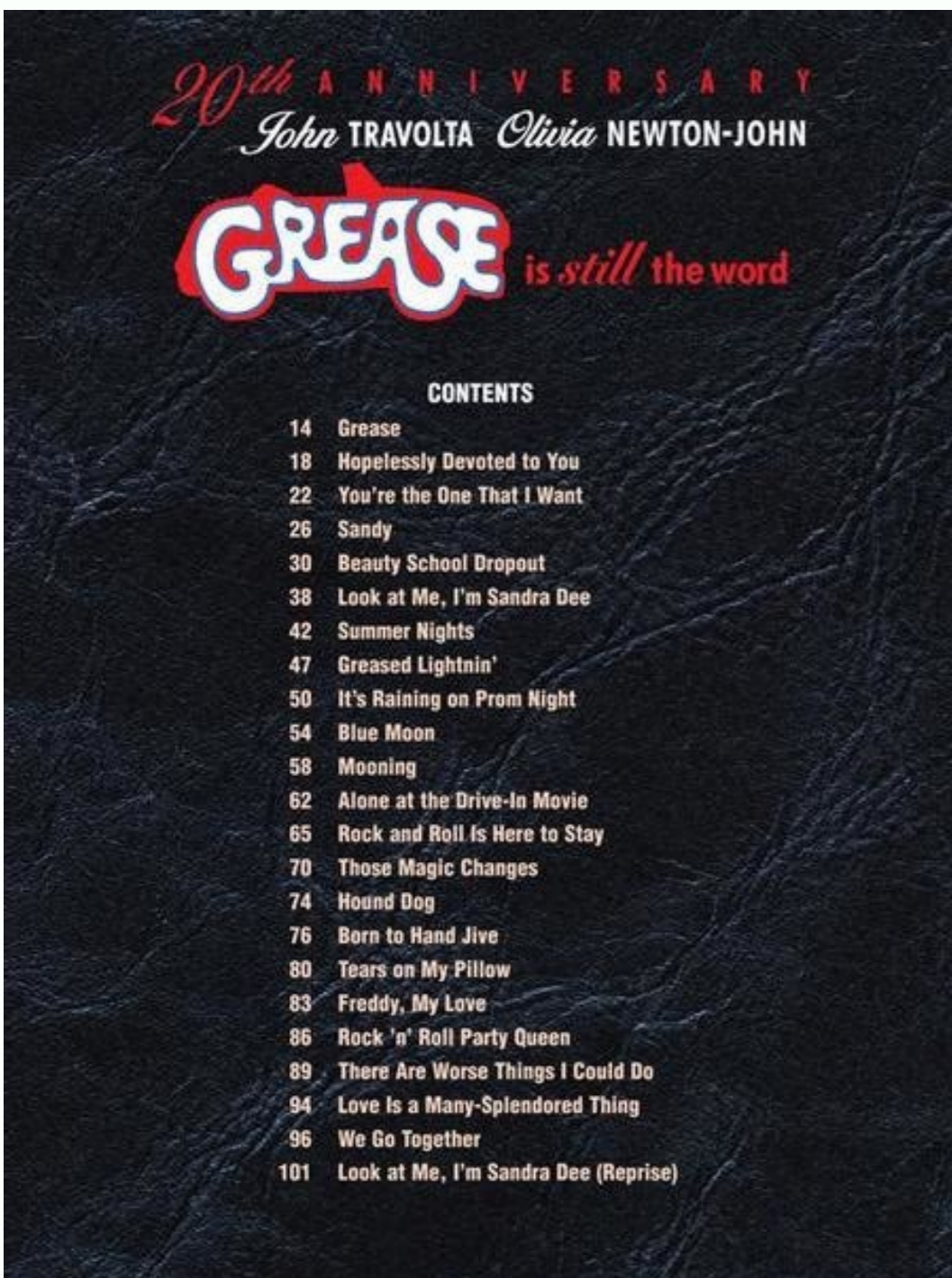


Is till a word

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What is a similar word to ill. What is a synonym for the word ill. Is till a word in scrabble. Is ill-tempered a word. What is a word for the prefix ill. Is till a word for until. Is till a word in english. What is a word for terminally ill.

Until, till, and 'til are all used in modern English to denote when something will happen. Until and till are both standard, but what might be surprising is that till is the older word. 'Til, with one L, is an informal and poetic shortening of until. The form 'till, with an additional L, is rarely if ever used today. We often find that people will ask how they should write until if they don't want to use that actual word; should it instead be till or 'til? Or, for the orthographically adventurous, is 'till a reasonable choice? The Prague Astronomical Clock is over 605 years old. It is still not as old as the use of 'till' to mean "until." 'Till' is Older Than 'Until' One reason for the confusion in this area is that many people assume that till is a misspelled abbreviation of until, a mistaken form in which the apprehensive spellers among us tack on an extra L at the end in order to make their word look a bit more balanced and give it some additional heft. However, till is not a shortening of until. It actually predates the longer word. Till has been in use in English since the 9th century; the earliest sense of the word was the same as the preposition to. It has been used as a conjunction meaning "until" since the 12th century. Until has been in use as both a preposition and a conjunction for almost as long. Both of these words are acceptable; you may send a text to your misbehaving child stating either "U R grounded till 4ever" or "U R grounded until 4ever." One 'L' or Two? Now what of 'til and 'till? These are viewed as somewhat more problematic. 'Till is entirely shunned by the writers of usage guides, when they see fit to mention it at all. Bryan Garner, in his Modern American Usage, refers to it as "abominable," which is rather polite when compared to Harper's Dictionary of Contemporary Usage, which says "the formation 'till is a bastard word and is substandard." You would do well to avoid using 'till, unless you are trying to annoy some portion of your readers. 'Till is still viewed askance by many people, at least in formal writing. Although it had previously been thought to have begun being used in the middle of the 20th century a closer look at the historical record shows that this particular variant is quite a bit older than that. Till occurs on occasion in the early 19th century, but it is difficult to say whether or not this is simply a variant spelling of till (which was often written with a single L in Middle English). But by the late 19th century an apostrophe has been added to the beginning of the word, and it is found in widespread use (especially when a writer is attempting to replicate colloquial speech). "Yes we will, Watty; we're only going to wait 'til they've got the house and furniture—and oh! Watty. What do you think?"—The New York Observer and Chronicle, 22 Aug. 1872 "Wait 'til you've been in a town like I have for some time," said Eve.—Temple Bar: A London Magazine for Town and Country Readers, Sept. 1880 Master-Workman Shaw was found this morning on the street, whistling "Wait 'Til the Clouds Roll by," and was tapped by the reporter for the latest developments on the strike situation.—The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 2 Aug. 1883 So there you have it: you will probably wish to avoid 'till, use 'til advisedly, and use both until and till freely. And if you use till in writing and someone tells you that you have made an error, simply take the extra L off the end of the word and poke them in the eye with it. You may have heard the expression "until the cows come home", meaning "for a very long time": If the manager wants perfection, she'll be waiting till the cows come home. But it is till or until the cows come home? And what's the difference? Macmillan Dictionary's entry for the phrase shows that either word is fine - in this context they are perfectly interchangeable. Both till and until can be used as a preposition or as a conjunction. As a preposition, they're followed by a noun: I'll be around till Sunday; We can live here until 2025. As a conjunction, they connect two clauses: She kept painting till she was happy with it; He ran until he could run no more. In these examples, till and until can be swapped around. This is not always possible or appropriate. As Liz Potter wrote in a Language Tip post, till is less formal; until is more formal. So if you're writing a business report or other serious text, until is probably the better choice. If you want to convey a more casual tone, till will do this. Until is also more common at the start of a sentence - though till is found here too. The difference in register is not huge, and in many contexts, as we've seen, you can use whichever word you prefer or whichever one sounds better to you. Sometimes metre is a factor: if you're writing poetry - even something playful, like a limerick - then the difference between one syllable and two is significant. Till and until are both very old words. People often assume that till is simply an abbreviation of until, but in fact till is a few centuries older. It shows up in the runic inscription on the ancient Ruthwell Cross in Scotland, where its original sense was the same as 'to'. There is an abbreviation of until: 'til. Some critics reject it, because we already have till. They may even call it incorrect. 'Till is still more disparaged, because the apostrophe is superfluous, and although this form was used by George Washington, of all people, I can't recommend it. Apostrophe-less til is occasionally used, but spelling-wise it falls between the two stools of till and 'til. TIL, which appears in the title of this post, is short for today I learned, and is in popular use online. Finally, till has another use in Irish English, where it means something like "in order that": "Come here till I tell you a story" means "Come here so that I can tell you a story." Maybe it's a story about till. Email this Post This week on Grammar Grater, our topic is inspired by a message from Patricia, a listener in Orlando, Fla. Patricia writes: "I was certain proper use of the contraction for the word until is 'til; however, I often see it spelled till. I thought that was a money drawer. Can you please clear this up? It will drive me crazy 'til I know! Thanks." It turns out the word till—meaning until—has a long and storied history. According to the Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology, the word till was first documented in the

