Word Pair Detective

Sort word pairs and explain your thinking.

2.LF.16.a "Use knowledge of antonyms and synonyms."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that mean the same or almost the same thing.

glad, happy

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words that mean opposite things.

up, down

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SAME or OPPOSITE for each pair; for Part 2, choose one pair from each group and write a sentence explaining how you know.

1. small, tiny — SAME OPPOSITE

2. hot, cold — SAME OPPOSITE

3. open, shut — SAME OPPOSITE

4. fast, quick — SAME OPPOSITE

5. begin, start — SAME OPPOSITE

6. angry, mad — SAME OPPOSITE

7. clean, dirty — SAME OPPOSITE

8. neat, tidy — SAME OPPOSITE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

For Part 3, write one new pair of synonyms and one new pair of antonyms.

SAME _____

OPPOSITE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one word that makes a synonym pair with big and an antonym pair with small. Write both pairs.

ANSWER KEY

Word Pair Detective

GRADE 2 · 2.LF.16.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	small, tiny	**SAME**	Both words mean little in size.
2	hot, cold	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite temperatures.
3	open, shut	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite states.
4	fast, quick	**SAME**	Both words can mean moving at a high speed.
5	begin, start	**SAME**	Both words mean to get something going.
6	angry, mad	**SAME**	Both words can describe feeling upset.
7	clean, dirty	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite conditions.
8	neat, tidy	**SAME**	Both words can mean orderly.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SAME**: little, tiny
- **OPPOSITE**: early, late

Challenge: big, large; small, large

For Part 2, accept explanations that describe matching or opposite meanings. For example, a student might write, “Hot and cold are opposites because they tell about very different temperatures.”