Word Pair Detectives

Same meaning or opposite meaning?

2.LF.16 "Describe word relationships and nuances in word meanings, including relating them to their opposites and distinguishing shades of meaning in similar or related words. a. Use knowledge of antonyms and synonyms. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

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

quiet / silent

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words that mean opposites.

full / empty

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SYNONYMS or ANTONYMS for each pair, then choose two numbered pairs and write how you knew in Part 2.

1.	begin / start	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
2.	hot / cold	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
3.	up / down	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
4.	happy / glad	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
5.	day / night	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
6.	big / large	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
7.	tiny / small	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
8.	fast / slow	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS

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

Write one new pair of synonyms and one new pair of antonyms. Do not use pairs from Part 1.

SYNONYMS _____

ANTONYMS _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a synonym for walk that shows how a person moves. Write a sentence with it and tell what it shows.

ANSWER KEY # Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.LF.16

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	begin / start	**SYNONYMS**	Both mean to begin doing something.
2	hot / cold	**ANTONYMS**	The words describe opposite temperatures.
3	up / down	**ANTONYMS**	The words name opposite directions.
4	happy / glad	**SYNONYMS**	Both describe feeling pleased.
5	day / night	**ANTONYMS**	The words name opposite parts of a daily cycle.
6	big / large	**SYNONYMS**	Both describe something of great size.
7	tiny / small	**SYNONYMS**	Both describe something of little size.
8	fast / slow	**ANTONYMS**	The words describe opposite speeds.

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)

- **SYNONYMS**: quick / speedy
- **ANTONYMS**: wet / dry

Challenge: I stroll along the path. Stroll shows I walk in a slow, relaxed way.

For Part 2, accept an explanation that tells why each chosen pair has similar or opposite meanings. For example, hot and cold describe opposite temperatures.