

Meaning Matchup

Sort word pairs by their meaning relationship.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.5b "Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SIMILAR MEANING

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning. They can often replace each other in a sentence.

begin, start

OPPOSITE MEANING

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. One word describes the reverse of the other.

generous, selfish

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each pair, then for Part 2, choose two pairs and explain whether the words have similar or opposite meanings.

1. observe, notice

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

2. fortunate, lucky

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

3. ancient, modern

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

4. scarce, plentiful

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

5. fragile, sturdy

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

6. assist, help

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

7. expand, shrink

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

8. victory, defeat

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.

SYNONYMS _____

ANTONYMS _____

CHALLENGE

Write an analogy that uses two pairs of antonyms, then label it ANTONYMS.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	observe, notice	SYNONYMS	Both words mean to see or become aware of something.
2	fortunate, lucky	SYNONYMS	Both words describe having good luck.
3	ancient, modern	ANTONYMS	Ancient means very old, while modern means current or recent.
4	scarce, plentiful	ANTONYMS	Scarce means limited, while plentiful means abundant.
5	fragile, sturdy	ANTONYMS	Fragile means easily broken, while sturdy means strong.
6	assist, help	SYNONYMS	Both words mean to give aid or support.
7	expand, shrink	ANTONYMS	Expand means become larger, while shrink means become smaller.
8	victory, defeat	ANTONYMS	Victory is a win, while defeat is a loss.

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:** silent, quiet
- **ANTONYMS:** permanent, temporary

Challenge: Victory is to defeat as arrival is to departure. ANTONYMS

Part 1 answers are shown in the category field for each item. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly state the meaning relationship and use the meanings of both words.