

Word Pair Detectives

Sort word pairs, prove two choices, then create your own.

6.L.V.3.b “Analyze relationships between words, phrases, and/or clauses (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, analogies, contextual clues) to determine, distinguish, or clarify the meaning of unknown or multiple-meaning words and phrases. (l)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

SYNONYMS

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

Begin and start are synonyms.

ANTONYMS

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

Empty and full are antonyms.

1 SORT

8 items

For each pair, circle SYNONYMS or ANTONYMS, then choose two item numbers and explain what word relationship proves each choice.

1. ancient, old

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

2. assist, help

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

3. scarce, plentiful

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

4. silent, quiet

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

5. victory, defeat

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

6. include, exclude

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

7. fragile, sturdy

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

8. swift, rapid

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 a pair from Part 1.

SYNONYMS _____

ANTONYMS _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that includes a synonym pair and an antonym pair. Label each pair.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	ancient, old	SYNONYMS	Both words mean very old.
2	assist, help	SYNONYMS	Both words mean to give help.
3	scarce, plentiful	ANTONYMS	Scarce means not much is available, while plentiful means there is a lot.
4	silent, quiet	SYNONYMS	Both words describe little or no sound.
5	victory, defeat	ANTONYMS	Victory means winning, while defeat means losing.
6	include, exclude	ANTONYMS	Include means to add or allow in, while exclude means to leave out.
7	fragile, sturdy	ANTONYMS	Fragile means easily broken, while sturdy means strong and not easily broken.
8	swift, rapid	SYNONYMS	Both words mean fast.

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:** brave, courageous
- **ANTONYMS:** generous, selfish

Challenge: The tiny kitten was small, but its large brother was huge. Synonyms: tiny, small. Antonyms: tiny, large.

Accept pairs that have the same or nearly the same meaning as synonyms. For Part 2, students should name the relationship and explain the meanings of both words in each selected pair.