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. (I)"

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.

ANSWER KEY # Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.L.V.3.b

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.

For Part 2, students should name the relationship and explain the meanings of both words in each selected pair.