

Clue Connection Sort

Use word relationships to unlock meaning.

8.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 _____

SYNONYM CLUE

A synonym clue gives a word or phrase with the same or nearly the same meaning as an unknown word.

The metal was **MALLEABLE**, or easy to bend.

ANTONYM CLUE

An antonym clue gives a word with the opposite meaning of an unknown word, often through contrast.

The desert is **ARID**, while the swamp is wet.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1 SORT: Read each sentence and circle the category that names the clue relationship; Part 2 PROVE IT: Choose two item numbers and explain which words show the relationship in each.

1. The kitten was **FRAGILE**, or easily broken.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

2. The chef's recipe was **ELABORATE**, meaning detailed and complex.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

3. Rather than whispering, the speaker **BOOMED** across the room.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

4. The road was **ICY**, or slick with frozen water.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

5. In contrast to the ancient bridge, the new tunnel was **MODERN**.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

6. The boxer was not **WEAK**, but powerful.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

7. The audience was **JOVIAL**, or cheerful and full of laughter.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

8. Unlike the shallow pond, the lake was **DEEP**.

SYNONYM

ANTONYM

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

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one sentence with a SYNONYM clue and one sentence with an ANTONYM clue. Underline the clue words or phrase in each sentence.

SYNONYM _____

ANTONYM _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with an antonym clue for an unknown word, but do not use the words unlike, but, or however.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The kitten was FRAGILE, or easily broken.	SYNONYM	"Easily broken" gives the same meaning as fragile.
2	The chef's recipe was ELABORATE, meaning detailed and complex.	SYNONYM	"Detailed and complex" gives a near-synonym for elaborate.
3	Rather than whispering, the speaker BOOMED across the room.	ANTONYM	Whispering contrasts with booming, showing an opposite relationship.
4	The road was ICY, or slick with frozen water.	SYNONYM	"Slick with frozen water" explains icy with a same-meaning phrase.
5	In contrast to the ancient bridge, the new tunnel was MODERN.	ANTONYM	Ancient contrasts with modern.
6	The boxer was not WEAK, but powerful.	ANTONYM	Powerful is an opposite of weak.
7	The audience was JOVIAL, or cheerful and full of laughter.	SYNONYM	"Cheerful and full of laughter" gives a near-synonym for jovial.
8	Unlike the shallow pond, the lake was DEEP.	ANTONYM	Shallow contrasts with deep.

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)

- **SYNONYM:** The cave was DIM, or barely lit.
- **ANTONYM:** The first path was steep, but the second path was LEVEL.

Challenge: Mila's room was IMMACULATE, while her brother's was messy and cluttered.

For Part 2, students should name the category and point to the specific clue words or phrase. Accept original Part 3 and challenge responses when the relationship clearly helps define the unknown word.