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. (I)"

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

Read each sentence and circle the category that names the clue relationship.

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

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.

ANSWER KEY

Clue Connection Sort

GRADE 8 · 8.L.V.3.b

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.