Meaning Matchup

Sort word pairs, explain your choices, and create your own.

L.5.5.c "Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their synonyms and antonyms."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning.

tiny : small

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

arrival : departure

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered pair, circle SYNONYM or ANTONYM, then choose two pairs and write how you knew each answer.

1.	enormous : huge	SYNONYM ANTONYM
2.	clever : smart	SYNONYM ANTONYM
3.	ancient : modern	SYNONYM ANTONYM
4.	joyful : cheerful	SYNONYM ANTONYM
5.	scarce : plentiful	SYNONYM ANTONYM
6.	expand : shrink	SYNONYM ANTONYM
7.	weary : tired	SYNONYM ANTONYM
8.	purchase : buy	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 new pair of synonyms and one new pair of antonyms. Do not use words printed above.

SYNONYM _____

_____

ANTONYM _____

_____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word you have not used on this page, then write both a synonym and an antonym for it.

ANSWER KEY

Meaning Matchup

GRADE 5 · L.5.5.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	enormous : huge	**SYNONYM**	Both mean very large.
2	clever : smart	**SYNONYM**	Both can describe someone who learns or thinks well.
3	ancient : modern	**ANTONYM**	Ancient means from long ago, while modern means from recent times.
4	joyful : cheerful	**SYNONYM**	Both describe feeling happy.
5	scarce : plentiful	**ANTONYM**	Scarce means there is little of something, while plentiful means there is a lot.
6	expand : shrink	**ANTONYM**	Expand means grow larger, while shrink means grow smaller.
7	weary : tired	**SYNONYM**	Both describe needing rest.
8	purchase : buy	**SYNONYM**	Both mean to get something by paying for it.

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**: brave : courageous
- **ANTONYM**: smooth : rough

Challenge: happy: synonym, glad; antonym, sad

For the two explanations, look for reasoning about similar or opposite meanings, not just the category name. Accept other accurate word pairs in Part 3 and the challenge.