

Word Pair Detectives

Sort word pairs by their meanings.

4L5.c "Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their antonyms and synonyms."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have the same or almost the same meaning.

tiny and small

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.

quiet and noisy

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the tag that names each word pair; for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew each pair was made of synonyms or antonyms.

1. rapid and fast

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

2. silent and quiet

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

3. empty and full

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

4. joyful and happy

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

5. ancient and modern

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

6. narrow and wide

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

7. brave and courageous

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

8. smooth and rough

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.

SYNONYMS _____

ANTONYMS _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences that use a pair of antonyms and make their opposite meanings clear from the context.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rapid and fast	SYNONYMS	Both words mean moving quickly.
2	silent and quiet	SYNONYMS	Both words mean making little or no sound.
3	empty and full	ANTONYMS	The words have opposite meanings.
4	joyful and happy	SYNONYMS	Both words mean feeling glad.
5	ancient and modern	ANTONYMS	Ancient means very old, while modern means current or new.
6	narrow and wide	ANTONYMS	The words describe opposite amounts of width.
7	brave and courageous	SYNONYMS	Both words mean showing courage.
8	smooth and rough	ANTONYMS	The words describe opposite surface textures.

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:** glad and pleased
- **ANTONYMS:** early and late

Challenge: The hallway was crowded before the concert. After the concert, the hallway was empty.

Accept word pairs with the same or nearly the same meaning as synonyms. Accept word pairs with clearly opposite meanings as antonyms.