

Word Pair Detectives

Sort word pairs by the relationship between their meanings.

5L5.c "Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SYNONYMS

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

rapid and *speedy* are synonyms.

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

generous and *selfish* are antonyms.

1 SORT

8 items

For each word pair, circle SYNONYMS or ANTONYMS, then choose two pairs and explain how the words' meanings helped you decide.

1. silent, quiet

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

2. tiny, small

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

3. arrive, depart

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

4. begin, start

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

5. honest, dishonest

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

6. victory, defeat

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

7. empty, full

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

8. ancient, old

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 a sentence using one word, then name one synonym and one antonym for that word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	silent, quiet	SYNONYMS	Both words mean making little or no sound.
2	tiny, small	SYNONYMS	Both words mean very little in size.
3	arrive, depart	ANTONYMS	Arrive means to come to a place, and depart means to leave a place.
4	begin, start	SYNONYMS	Both words mean to do something first or to make something happen.
5	honest, dishonest	ANTONYMS	Honest means truthful, and dishonest means not truthful.
6	victory, defeat	ANTONYMS	Victory means winning, and defeat means losing.
7	empty, full	ANTONYMS	Empty means having nothing inside, and full means holding as much as possible.
8	ancient, old	SYNONYMS	Both words describe something from a long time ago.

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:** *smooth, rough*

Challenge: The pond was *shallow*. A synonym is *not deep*, and an antonym is *deep*.

Accept pairs with the same or nearly the same meaning as synonyms. For the Prove It responses, students should identify the relationship in each selected pair and use meaning-based evidence.