

Word Pair Detectives

Use meaning relationships to sort word pairs.

7L5.b "Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SYNONYM PAIR

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning. A synonym pair shows two similar meanings.

rapid / swift

ANTONYM PAIR

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. An antonym pair shows meanings that contrast.

increase / decrease

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each word pair, then choose two items and explain how the words' meanings helped you decide.

1. timid / shy

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

2. huge / enormous

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

3. accept / refuse

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

4. observe / notice

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

5. victory / defeat

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

6. generous / selfish

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

7. repair / mend

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

8. calm / peaceful

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 synonym pair and one new antonym pair.

SYNONYMS _____

ANTONYMS _____

CHALLENGE

Write an analogy that shows two synonym relationships in this form: word : synonym :: word : synonym.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	timid / shy	SYNONYMS	Both words mean easily frightened or lacking confidence.
2	huge / enormous	SYNONYMS	Both words mean very large.
3	accept / refuse	ANTONYMS	To accept is to agree or take, while to refuse is to reject.
4	observe / notice	SYNONYMS	Both words can mean to become aware of something.
5	victory / defeat	ANTONYMS	Victory means winning, while defeat means losing.
6	generous / selfish	ANTONYMS	Generous means willing to give, while selfish means focused on oneself.
7	repair / mend	SYNONYMS	Both words mean to fix something.
8	calm / peaceful	SYNONYMS	Both words can describe a quiet state without disturbance.

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:** begin / start
- **ANTONYMS:** honest / dishonest

Challenge: brave : courageous :: tiny : small

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are SYNONYMS. Items 3, 5, and 6 are ANTONYMS. For Part 2, students should state that the pair has similar meanings or opposite meanings and support the claim with the words' meanings.