Word Pair Detectives

Sort words by how their meanings connect.

4.4.R.1 "Students will identify relationships among words, including synonyms, antonyms, analogies, homophones, and homographs."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

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

quiet, silent

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

empty, full

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SYNONYMS or ANTONYMS for each numbered pair, then choose two pairs and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	brave, cowardly	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
2.	tiny, small	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
3.	begin, start	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
4.	awake, asleep	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
5.	angry, mad	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
6.	smooth, rough	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
7.	fast, quick	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
8.	happy, glad	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 about the weather: use and underline a synonym pair in the first sentence and an antonym pair in the second.

ANSWER KEY # Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	brave, cowardly	**ANTONYMS**	The words describe opposite ways of facing fear.
2	tiny, small	**SYNONYMS**	Both words mean little in size.
3	begin, start	**SYNONYMS**	Both words mean to get something going.
4	awake, asleep	**ANTONYMS**	The words describe opposite states.
5	angry, mad	**SYNONYMS**	Both words can describe feeling upset.
6	smooth, rough	**ANTONYMS**	The words describe opposite textures.
7	fast, quick	**SYNONYMS**	Both words describe speed.
8	happy, glad	**SYNONYMS**	Both words describe feeling pleased.

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**: large, huge
- **ANTONYMS**: early, late

Challenge: The soaked, drenched coats hung by the door. The day changed from cloudy to sunny.

For Part 2, students should explain both chosen pairs. For example, tiny and small both describe little size, while smooth and rough describe opposite textures.