Word Pair Detectives

Sort word pairs by their meanings.

4.RC.11 "Identify relationships among words, including more complex homographs, homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, and multiple meanings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms have the same or nearly the same meaning.

happy / joyful

ANTONYMS

Antonyms have opposite meanings.

open / closed

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered pair, circle SAME or OPPOSITE, then choose two pairs and explain how you knew each answer.

1.	glance / peek	SAME OPPOSITE
2.	fragile / sturdy	SAME OPPOSITE
3.	ancient / modern	SAME OPPOSITE
4.	silent / quiet	SAME OPPOSITE
5.	drowsy / sleepy	SAME OPPOSITE
6.	enormous / tiny	SAME OPPOSITE
7.	brave / courageous	SAME OPPOSITE
8.	toss / throw	SAME OPPOSITE

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.

SAME _____

OPPOSITE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence that uses a pair of antonyms to show how something changes, and underline both words.

ANSWER KEY # Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 4 · 4.RC.11

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	glance / peek	**SAME**	Both mean to look briefly.
2	fragile / sturdy	**OPPOSITE**	Fragile means easily broken, while sturdy means strong.
3	ancient / modern	**OPPOSITE**	Ancient refers to long ago, while modern refers to the present or recent times.
4	silent / quiet	**SAME**	Both describe little or no sound.
5	drowsy / sleepy	**SAME**	Both describe feeling ready to sleep.
6	enormous / tiny	**OPPOSITE**	Enormous means very large, while tiny means very small.
7	brave / courageous	**SAME**	Both describe facing fear or danger.
8	toss / throw	**SAME**	Both can mean to send something through the air.

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)

- **SAME**: Synonyms: quick / fast
- **OPPOSITE**: Antonyms: rough / smooth

Challenge: The dry ground became wet after the rain.

For Part 2, a student might explain that glance and peek both mean to look briefly, while fragile and sturdy describe opposite kinds of strength. Accept other accurate word pairs and explanations.