Meaning Matchup

Sort word pairs by how their meanings connect.

11.4.R.1 "Students will analyze the relationships among synonyms, antonyms, and analogies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SIMILAR MEANING

Synonyms have the same or nearly the same meaning. The words do not have to be interchangeable in every sentence.

transient : temporary

OPPOSITE MEANING

Antonyms have opposite meanings. Check what both words mean before deciding.

expand : contract

1 SORT

8 items

In Part 1, circle SYNONYM or ANTONYM for each numbered pair, then in Part 2, choose two pairs and explain how their meanings prove your choices.

1.	meticulous : thorough	SYNONYM ANTONYM
2.	volatile : stable	SYNONYM ANTONYM
3.	concise : brief	SYNONYM ANTONYM
4.	arduous : difficult	SYNONYM ANTONYM
5.	benevolent : malevolent	SYNONYM ANTONYM
6.	opaque : transparent	SYNONYM ANTONYM
7.	impartial : unbiased	SYNONYM ANTONYM
8.	rigid : flexible	SYNONYM ANTONYM

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. Label each pair.

SYNONYM _____

ANTONYM _____

CHALLENGE

Write a four-word analogy using two new pairs that have the same relationship, then name the relationship and explain it in one sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Meaning Matchup

GRADE 11 · 11.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	meticulous : thorough	**SYNONYM**	Both describe careful, complete work.
2	volatile : stable	**ANTONYM**	Volatile means likely to change suddenly; stable means unlikely to change suddenly.
3	concise : brief	**SYNONYM**	Both can describe something expressed in few words.
4	arduous : difficult	**SYNONYM**	Both can describe a task that requires considerable effort.
5	benevolent : malevolent	**ANTONYM**	Benevolent means wishing others well; malevolent means wishing them harm.
6	opaque : transparent	**ANTONYM**	Opaque blocks light; transparent lets light pass through.
7	impartial : unbiased	**SYNONYM**	Both describe someone who does not favor one side.
8	rigid : flexible	**ANTONYM**	Rigid means not easily bent or changed; flexible means easily bent or changed.

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)

- **SYNONYM**: serene : calm
- **ANTONYM**: scarce : abundant

Challenge: timid : fearful :: furious : angry. The relationship is synonym because the words in each pair have similar meanings.

For Part 2, a student might explain that #1 describes two ways of being careful and complete, while #2 contrasts sudden change with steadiness. Accept other explanations that accurately connect each pair's meanings.