Word Pair Detectives

Sort word pairs and explain your choices.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that mean the same or nearly the same thing.

sofa / couch

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

above / below

1 SORT

8 items

Circle Synonyms or Antonyms for each numbered pair, then choose two pairs and write how you knew.

1.	happy / glad	SAME OPPOSITE
2.	begin / start	SAME OPPOSITE
3.	hot / cold	SAME OPPOSITE
4.	large / big	SAME OPPOSITE
5.	noisy / quiet	SAME OPPOSITE
6.	clean / dirty	SAME OPPOSITE
7.	fast / quick	SAME OPPOSITE
8.	empty / full	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. Do not use pairs from this page.

SAME _____

OPPOSITE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using a new pair of antonyms, and underline both words.

ANSWER KEY

Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	happy / glad	**SAME**	Both words mean feeling pleased.
2	begin / start	**SAME**	Both words mean to get something going.
3	hot / cold	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite temperatures.
4	large / big	**SAME**	Both words mean great in size.
5	noisy / quiet	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite amounts of sound.
6	clean / dirty	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite conditions.
7	fast / quick	**SAME**	Both words can mean moving with speed.
8	empty / full	**OPPOSITE**	The words describe opposite amounts inside something.

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**: jump / leap
- **OPPOSITE**: wet / dry

Challenge: The box felt heavy, but the bag felt light.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly say whether a pair has nearly the same meaning or opposite meanings. The challenge sentence must use both antonyms in ways that make their opposite meanings clear.