Word Pair Detective

Sort words by how their meanings connect.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

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

silent / quiet

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

early / late

1 SORT

8 items

Read each word pair and circle SYNONYMS or ANTONYMS.

1.	repair / mend	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
2.	shout / yell	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
3.	ancient / modern	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
4.	begin / start	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
5.	fragile / sturdy	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
6.	accept / refuse	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
7.	select / choose	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS
8.	joyful / cheerful	SYNONYMS ANTONYMS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two numbered pairs, one from each category, and explain how you knew where each 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

Choose one word that has both a synonym and an antonym, then write and label both word pairs.

ANSWER KEY # Word Pair Detective

GRADE 5 · 5.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	repair / mend	**SYNONYMS**	Both mean to fix something.
2	shout / yell	**SYNONYMS**	Both mean to speak very loudly.
3	ancient / modern	**ANTONYMS**	Ancient refers to long ago, while modern refers to the present or recent times.
4	begin / start	**SYNONYMS**	Both mean to get something underway.
5	fragile / sturdy	**ANTONYMS**	Fragile means easily broken, while sturdy means strongly built.
6	accept / refuse	**ANTONYMS**	To accept is to agree to take something, while to refuse is to decline it.
7	select / choose	**SYNONYMS**	Both mean to pick from options.
8	joyful / cheerful	**SYNONYMS**	Both describe someone who feels or shows happiness.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick two numbered pairs, one from each category, and explain how you knew where each belonged.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SYNONYMS**: neat / tidy
- **ANTONYMS**: open / closed

Challenge: cold / chilly, synonyms; cold / hot, antonyms

For Part 2, explanations should describe the meanings of both words in each chosen pair. For example, item 1 contains two words meaning to fix something, while item 3 contrasts long ago with present or recent times.