Word Swap Detectives

Sort word pairs, then prove two choices using their definitions.

6.4.R.4 "Students will use a dictionary, glossary, or thesaurus to determine or clarify the meanings, syllabication, pronunciation, synonyms, antonyms, and parts of speech of words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms have the same or nearly the same meaning. Compare the definitions and parts of speech of both words.

swift (adj.): moving quickly; speedy (adj.): moving quickly

ANTONYMS

Antonyms have opposite meanings. Compare the definitions and parts of speech of both words.

expand (v.): grow larger; shrink (v.): grow smaller

1 SORT

8 items

Read each pair of dictionary-style entries, then circle SYNONYM or ANTONYM.

1. enormous (adj.): very large; huge (adj.): very large — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
2. ancient (adj.): very old; modern (adj.): new or recent — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
3. difficult (adj.): hard to do; easy (adj.): not hard to do — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
4. reply (v.): answer; respond (v.): answer — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
5. tiny (adj.): very small; miniature (adj.): very small — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
6. begin (v.): start; commence (v.): start — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
7. include (v.): make part of a group; exclude (v.): leave out of a group — SYNONYM / ANTONYM
8. cheerful (adj.): happy; joyful (adj.): happy — 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 synonym pair and one new antonym pair. Give each word's part of speech and meaning.

SYNONYM _____

ANTONYM _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one pair from the sort. Replace its second word so the pair moves to the other category. Write the new pair and explain why it moved.

ANSWER KEY

Word Swap Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.4.R.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	enormous (adj.): very large; huge (adj.): very large	**SYNONYM**	Both adjectives mean very large.
2	ancient (adj.): very old; modern (adj.): new or recent	**ANTONYM**	Very old and new or recent are opposite meanings.
3	difficult (adj.): hard to do; easy (adj.): not hard to do	**ANTONYM**	The definitions give opposite meanings.
4	reply (v.): answer; respond (v.): answer	**SYNONYM**	Both verbs mean answer.
5	tiny (adj.): very small; miniature (adj.): very small	**SYNONYM**	Both adjectives can mean very small.
6	begin (v.): start; commence (v.): start	**SYNONYM**	Both verbs mean start.
7	include (v.): make part of a group; exclude (v.): leave out of a group	**ANTONYM**	Making something part of a group is the opposite of leaving it out.
8	cheerful (adj.): happy; joyful (adj.): happy	**SYNONYM**	Both adjectives mean happy.

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**: Synonyms: silent (adj.): making no sound; noiseless (adj.): making no sound.
- **ANTONYM**: Antonyms: victory (n.): a win; defeat (n.): a loss.

Challenge: Difficult (adj.) and challenging (adj.) are synonyms because both mean hard to do. Replacing easy with challenging moves item 3 from antonyms to synonyms.

For Part 2, accept any two numbered items with explanations that accurately compare the printed definitions. For Part 3 and the challenge, accept other clear pairs with accurate meanings and parts of speech.