Word Pair Detectives

Sort pairs, explain your choices, and build an analogy.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning.

drowsy / sleepy

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

ancient / modern

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered word pair, circle SYNONYM or ANTONYM to show how the words relate.

1.	brave / courageous	SYNONYM ANTONYM
2.	assist / help	SYNONYM ANTONYM
3.	expand / contract	SYNONYM ANTONYM
4.	reluctant / unwilling	SYNONYM ANTONYM
5.	scarce / abundant	SYNONYM ANTONYM
6.	victory / defeat	SYNONYM ANTONYM
7.	fragile / sturdy	SYNONYM ANTONYM
8.	rapid / swift	SYNONYM ANTONYM

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two numbered pairs and explain how you knew each category.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new word pair for each category.

SYNONYM _____

ANTONYM _____

CHALLENGE

Use the antonym pair you made to write an analogy with a different antonym pair.

ANSWER KEY

Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 7 · 7.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	brave / courageous	**SYNONYM**	Both describe someone willing to face danger.
2	assist / help	**SYNONYM**	Both mean to give aid.
3	expand / contract	**ANTONYM**	Expand means grow larger; contract means grow smaller.
4	reluctant / unwilling	**SYNONYM**	Both describe not wanting to do something.
5	scarce / abundant	**ANTONYM**	Scarce means in short supply; abundant means plentiful.
6	victory / defeat	**ANTONYM**	A victory is a win; a defeat is a loss.
7	fragile / sturdy	**ANTONYM**	Fragile means easily broken; sturdy means strongly built.
8	rapid / swift	**SYNONYM**	Both mean fast.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

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

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SYNONYM**: generous / giving
- **ANTONYM**: accept / reject

Challenge: accept : reject :: include : exclude

Part 2 sample: Item 1 is a synonym pair because both words describe someone willing to face danger. Item 3 is an antonym pair because expanding makes something larger, while contracting makes it smaller.