Word Pair Detective

Sort pairs by how their meanings relate.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms have the same or nearly the same meaning.

fragile : delicate

ANTONYMS

Antonyms have opposite meanings.

accept : reject

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SYNONYM or ANTONYM for each pair, then choose one item from each category and explain how the words helped you decide.

1.	weary : tired	SYNONYM ANTONYM
2.	expand : shrink	SYNONYM ANTONYM
3.	victory : defeat	SYNONYM ANTONYM
4.	precise : exact	SYNONYM ANTONYM
5.	rapid : swift	SYNONYM ANTONYM
6.	conceal : reveal	SYNONYM ANTONYM
7.	silent : noiseless	SYNONYM ANTONYM
8.	enormous : huge	SYNONYM ANTONYM

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how the words helped you decide.

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.

SYNONYM _____

ANTONYM _____

CHALLENGE

Write an analogy in the form word : word :: word : word, using two different pairs with the same relationship, then name that relationship.

ANSWER KEY

Word Pair Detective

GRADE 8 · 8.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	weary : tired	**SYNONYM**	Both words mean feeling in need of rest.
2	expand : shrink	**ANTONYM**	Expand means grow larger, while shrink means grow smaller.
3	victory : defeat	**ANTONYM**	A victory is a win, while a defeat is a loss.
4	precise : exact	**SYNONYM**	Both words describe something accurate or specific.
5	rapid : swift	**SYNONYM**	Both words mean fast.
6	conceal : reveal	**ANTONYM**	Conceal means hide, while reveal means show.
7	silent : noiseless	**SYNONYM**	Both words mean making no sound.
8	enormous : huge	**SYNONYM**	Both words mean very large.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how the words helped you decide.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SYNONYM**: brave : courageous
- **ANTONYM**: polite : rude

Challenge: bright : dim :: rough : smooth. Both pairs are antonyms.

For Part 2, an explanation for item 1 could say that weary and tired mean nearly the same thing. An explanation for item 2 could say that expand and shrink describe opposite changes in size.