Word Pair Detectives

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

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms have the same or nearly the same meaning.

lucid : clear

ANTONYMS

Antonyms have opposite meanings.

expand : contract

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered word pair, circle SYNONYM or ANTONYM.

1.	reluctant : unwilling	SYNONYM ANTONYM
2.	immense : enormous	SYNONYM ANTONYM
3.	abundant : scarce	SYNONYM ANTONYM
4.	diligent : lazy	SYNONYM ANTONYM
5.	conceal : reveal	SYNONYM ANTONYM
6.	cautious : wary	SYNONYM ANTONYM
7.	hostile : friendly	SYNONYM ANTONYM
8.	silent : quiet	SYNONYM ANTONYM

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two sort items, 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 synonym pair and one new antonym pair using words not shown above.

SYNONYM _____

ANTONYM _____

CHALLENGE

Write a four-word analogy using two new synonym pairs or two new antonym pairs, and label the relationship.

ANSWER KEY

Word Pair Detectives

GRADE 9 · 9.4.R.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	reluctant : unwilling	**SYNONYM**	Both words mean not willing or eager.
2	immense : enormous	**SYNONYM**	Both words mean extremely large.
3	abundant : scarce	**ANTONYM**	Abundant means plentiful; scarce means in short supply.
4	diligent : lazy	**ANTONYM**	Diligent describes steady effort; lazy describes an unwillingness to make effort.
5	conceal : reveal	**ANTONYM**	To conceal is to hide; to reveal is to show.
6	cautious : wary	**SYNONYM**	Both words describe being careful about possible danger.
7	hostile : friendly	**ANTONYM**	Hostile and friendly describe opposing attitudes.
8	silent : quiet	**SYNONYM**	Both words can describe making little or no sound.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick two sort items, 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)

- **SYNONYM**: generous : giving
- **ANTONYM**: ancient : modern

Challenge: rapid : fast :: swift : quick (synonyms)

For Part 2, look for explanations based on meaning, not spelling or sound. The challenge analogy must use the same relationship in both pairs.