

Word Pair Detectives

Sort word pairs by how their meanings connect.

3.3 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking--vocabulary. The student uses newly acquired vocabulary expressively..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Glad and joyful are synonyms.

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.

Cold and hot are antonyms.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle SYNONYMS or ANTONYMS for each pair, then choose two items and explain how the word meanings helped you sort them.

1. rapid, quick

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

2. empty, full

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

3. polite, rude

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

4. tiny, small

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

5. begin, start

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

6. sleepy, tired

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

7. noisy, silent

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

8. smooth, rough

SYNONYMS

ANTONYMS

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 pair of SYNONYMS and one new pair of ANTONYMS.

SYNONYMS _____

ANTONYMS _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses a synonym pair and an antonym pair. Underline the synonym pair once and the antonym pair twice.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	rapid, quick	SYNONYMS	Both words mean moving fast.
2	empty, full	ANTONYMS	The words have opposite meanings.
3	polite, rude	ANTONYMS	The words have opposite meanings.
4	tiny, small	SYNONYMS	Both words mean little in size.
5	begin, start	SYNONYMS	Both words mean to do something first.
6	sleepy, tired	SYNONYMS	Both words describe needing rest.
7	noisy, silent	ANTONYMS	The words have opposite meanings.
8	smooth, rough	ANTONYMS	The words have opposite meanings.

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)

- **SYNONYMS:** bright, shiny
- **ANTONYMS:** early, late

Challenge: The __small__ kitten was not __large__, but it was __playful__ and __frisky__.

For Part 2, students should name whether each chosen pair has similar or opposite meanings. In the challenge sample, small and large are antonyms, while playful and frisky are synonyms.