



Synonyms and Antonyms

Identify and write synonyms and antonyms

Learning Notes This Vocabulary lesson pack contains eleven exercises on identifying and writing synonyms and antonyms. Each worksheet can be used over a period of consecutive days either as warm-up, practice or review.

Teaching Tip Have students use different colored highlighters to distinguish between synonyms and antonyms. Have students use a thesaurus to look up additional synonyms and antonyms for each exercise and a dictionary to look up any unknown words. **(Visual, Tactile)**

Modifications and/or Extensions To modify these exercises, read each set of four words given and have students choose the two words that are either synonyms or antonyms. Create teams and give points to the teams that answer correctly. Discuss answers. To extend these exercises, have students create a comic strip, poem or narrative that includes synonyms and antonyms. Instruct students to highlight the synonyms and antonyms.

Recommended Exercises

Introductory: Exercises on Dictionary Skills, Definitions and Descriptive Adjectives

Follow-up: Exercises on Analogies, Homophones and Words with Multiple Meanings

The Lessons included in this pack are as follows:

Relationships: Synonyms, Antonyms

From the EPS book *Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2*

The following focus on identifying correct synonyms or antonyms

Words: 'reluctant,' 'prohibit'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Circle two words that are synonyms; circle two antonyms

Words: 'lengthen,' 'despair'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Circle two words that are synonyms; circle two antonyms

Words: 'snout,' 'gorge'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Circle two words that are synonyms; circle two antonyms

Words: 'associate,' 'transform'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Circle two words in a group of four that are synonyms

Words: 'investigate,' 'fracture'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Circle two words that are synonyms; circle two antonyms

Words: 'guardian,' 'hoist'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Circle two words that are synonyms; circle two antonyms

Designate as Synonym or Antonym

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

The following focus on identifying synonyms and antonyms

Words: 'resemblance,' 'somber'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Find and circle two words that are synonyms or antonyms

Words: 'perish,' 'molten'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Find and circle two words that are synonyms or antonyms

Words: 'refuse,' 'compassionate'

Wordly Wise 3000 Book 2

Find and circle two words that are synonyms or antonyms

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Words that have the same meaning are called **synonyms**.

Examples: little — small
 woman — lady
 over — above

- For each word in Column A, find a synonym in Column B. Write the number of the synonym next to the word.

	A	B
	frighten _____	1. earth
	harm _____	2. scare
	grateful _____	3. peacefulness
	make _____	4. build
	loyal _____	5. great
	world _____	6. piece
	powerful _____	7. damage
	blackness _____	8. correct
	wonderful _____	9. strong
	fearless _____	10. thankful
	right _____	11. gladness
	calmness _____	12. darkness
	useless _____	13. worthless
	part _____	14. faithful
	happiness _____	15. brave

Words that have the opposite meaning are called **antonyms**.

Examples: little — big
 woman — man
 over — under

- For each word in Column A, find an antonym in Column B. Write the number of the antonym next to the word in Column A.

	A	B
day	_____	1. release
damage	_____	2. night
beautiful	_____	3. thanklessness
harmful	_____	4. ugly
helpful	_____	5. fearlessly
happiness	_____	6. loosen
speechless	_____	7. fix
capture	_____	8. harmless
difference	_____	9. talkative
thankfulness	_____	10. sadness
cheap	_____	11. lightness
tighten	_____	12. expensive
neatness	_____	13. helpless
fearfully	_____	14. sameness
heaviness	_____	15. messiness

Same or Different Meanings

Directions: *Fast* and *quick* have the same meaning. Circle the pairs below that also have the same meaning.

Set I

1. (fast—quick)
2. bright—shiny
3. bell—clock
4. sad—unhappy
5. hide—seek
6. hungry—thirsty
7. object—thing
8. look at—watch
9. dog—cat
10. want—desire

Set II

1. thick—wide
2. save—keep
3. buy—sell
4. hill—mountain
5. car—automobile
6. rush—hurry
7. shop—store
8. draw—paint
9. happy—glad
10. sky—cloud

Directions: Can you think of another word with the same meaning? The first one is done for you.

over _____ above _____

build _____

angry _____

hold _____

clean _____

Same or Different Meanings

Directions: The first word in each problem is underlined. Circle another word in the row that has the same meaning as the underlined word.

1. grab throw snatch run close hang
2. fight enemy battle sword talk soldier
3. mend fix buy find live travel
4. knock hit window door plant lock
5. harm illness accident injury help charm
6. bun fruit soup roll cookie beverage
7. help cheer fool aid hurt tease
8. push crush pat shove bring lift
9. haul drag store clean heap distant
10. scream music yell grip bind
11. dunk slide trap reach dip weigh

Opposites

The opposite of *empty* is *full*; the opposite of *black* is *white*.

Opposites are as different as they can be.

Empty is the least amount, *full* is the most amount;
black is the darkest color, *white* is the lightest color.

Directions: Give an opposite for each of the following words.

1. up _____ 2. stop _____

3. yes _____ 4. wet _____

5. thin _____ 6. work _____

7. dark _____ 8. loud _____

9. high _____ 10. cry _____

11. bumpy _____ 12. wild _____

13. day _____ 14. break _____

15. cold _____ 16. soft _____

17. light _____ 18. new _____

19. little _____ 20. loose _____

Opposites

Directions: In each row there is one word that is the opposite of the underlined word. Find this opposite. Circle it.

1. end result way start edge item
2. yell whisper drink weep laugh sigh
3. mean crazy angry quiet kind lazy
4. sharp pretty nimble boring dull brisk
5. melt pester listen cover guard freeze
6. near long far happy tricky alone
7. tall wide deep thin short long
8. lost soft found long eager wish
9. slow quiet near glad quick sleepy
10. deep useful high narrow shallow thick
11. easy hard bright short big early
12. skinny long hungry fat afraid tall

Synonyms

A word that has the same or almost the same meaning as another is called a **synonym**. *Under* and *beneath* are synonyms, for example.

Directions: Some of the following pairs of words are synonyms, and some are not. Label the pairs of synonyms **S** and the pairs that are not synonyms **NS**.

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------|-------------------|
| _____ | 1. roof—ceiling | _____ | 11. key—clasp |
| _____ | 2. honest—truthful | _____ | 12. late—last |
| _____ | 3. box—crate | _____ | 13. idea—thought |
| _____ | 4. when—then | _____ | 14. level—flat |
| _____ | 5. worker—servant | _____ | 15. jump—past |
| _____ | 6. destroy—ruin | _____ | 16. pair—couple |
| _____ | 7. bulge—burst | _____ | 17. heavy—full |
| _____ | 8. blank—empty | _____ | 18. make—create |
| _____ | 9. fang—tooth | _____ | 19. wide—deep |
| _____ | 10. stroke—push | _____ | 20. continue—stop |

Synonyms and Antonyms

A word opposite in meaning to another word is called an **antonym**. *Tiny* and *gigantic* are antonyms, for example.

Directions: Some of the following pairs of words are synonyms and some are antonyms. Label the synonyms **S** and the antonyms **A**.

- | | |
|-------|----------------------|
| _____ | 1. hate—love |
| _____ | 2. frightened—scared |
| _____ | 3. squirm—wiggle |
| _____ | 4. energetic—tired |
| _____ | 5. timid—bold |
| _____ | 6. win—lose |
| _____ | 7. silly—foolish |
| _____ | 8. kind—cruel |

Synonyms and Antonyms

Directions: Some of the following pairs of words are synonyms, some are antonyms, and some do not have either type of relationship. Label the synonyms **S**, the antonyms **A**, and the other pairs **O**.

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| _____ | 1. shake—quiver | _____ | 6. task—job |
| _____ | 2. pair—bunch | _____ | 7. never—always |
| _____ | 3. talk—discuss | _____ | 8. follow—wait |
| _____ | 4. wood—plant | _____ | 9. stove—fire |
| _____ | 5. slow—fast | _____ | 10. hurry—rush |

1. Some of the following pairs of words are synonyms and some are not. Put a star by each pair of synonyms.

weak—strong	silence—stillness	start—beginning
pants—trousers	prank—trick	extra—enough
boring—dull	fast—rapid	drag—pull
end—middle	make—create	clever—rapid

2. Circle any word in the following list that is a synonym for *argue*. You may need to look up words you do not know in a dictionary.

quarrel	ask	select
disapprove	begin	reason
dislike	haggle	persuade
wrangle	command	indicate
squabble	bicker	dispute
explain	introduce	talk

3. Underline any word in the following list that is a synonym for *fearful*.

proud	scary	horrible
sturdy	energetic	eager
terrible	frightening	tense
honest	strong	famous

4. Give at least two synonyms for each word. Then check with the dictionary or with your classmates to see how many synonyms you can find for each word.

tired _____

boring _____

lift _____

sad _____

