Opposite meanings: answers and notes

What your child practised: finding antonyms (words with opposite meanings), and making them with the prefixes un-, dis-, in- and im-.

Page 1 · Warm up (any true opposite)

hot: **cold** · early: **late** · full: **empty** · fair: **unfair**

Page 2 · Prefix cards

unkind · **dis**appear · **im**polite · **dis**honest · **in**visible
impatient · **un**lock · **dis**obey · **in**complete · **un**fair

Page 2 · A. Antonyms (examples)

generous: **mean, selfish** · victory: **defeat**
shallow: **deep** · accept: **refuse, reject**
expand: **shrink, contract** · rough: **smooth**

Page 2 · B. Add a prefix

untidy · **dis**obey · **in**complete · **im**perfect
immature · **dis**like · **in**active · **un**aware

Page 3 · C. Ring the antonym

1. **cowardly** · 2. **plentiful** · 3. **permanent** · 4. **criticise**

Page 3 · D. Change the meaning (example)

The **untidy** (messy) classroom was **noisy** (loud) when the children **left** (departed).

Challenge: "Unpossible" isn't a real word. It should be **impossible**. Possible starts with p, and im- usually goes before words starting with m or p.

Watch out for

- **Picking a synonym instead** (bold for brave). Ask "Does it mean the opposite, or the same?"
- **The wrong prefix** (unpossible, inhonest). There's no single rule for every word, so say the options aloud and check a dictionary if unsure.
- **Other prefixes:** il- and ir- also make antonyms (illegal, irregular). Your child may meet these too.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Opposites ping-pong:** you say a word, your child says its antonym, then swap.
- **Opposite day story:** retell a well-known story with every describing word swapped for its antonym.
- **In the game:** Chapter 3 puts synonyms and antonyms side by side, so your child can tell them apart.