Synonym or antonym? Answers and notes

What your child practised: deciding whether two words are synonyms, antonyms or not linked in meaning, and using both terms correctly.

Page 1 · Warm up

hot / cold **A** · begin / start **S**
rich / wealthy **S** · empty / full **A**

Page 2 · Book word hunt

Answers will vary. E.g. gloomy: dark (synonym), bright (antonym).

Page 2 · A. Sort the pairs

Synonyms: **shut / close**, **giggle / laugh**
Antonyms: **polite / rude**, **remember / forget**
Not linked: **teacher / school**, **rain / puddle**

Page 3 · B. Fill the gaps

1. **antonyms** · 2. **synonyms** · 3. **antonyms** · 4. **synonyms**

Page 3 · C. Synonym and antonym (examples)

cheerful: happy / miserable
enormous: huge / tiny
gentle: soft / rough
fearless: brave / cowardly

Page 3 · D. Own sentence

E.g. "The box was empty, but the bag was full."

Challenge: No. Day and night are linked by topic, but their meanings are opposite, so they are **antonyms**, not synonyms. Synonyms must have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Watch out for

- **Swapping the terms.** Use the trick: **s**ynonym = **s**ame, **a**ntonym = **a**gainst.
- **Calling topic words synonyms** (teacher / school, rain / puddle). They go together, but neither means the same as the other or the opposite.
- **More than one right answer.** Most words have several synonyms and antonyms. Accept any that pass the swap test.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **S or A?** Say two words; your child says "synonyms", "antonyms" or "neither".
- **Reading hunt:** look out for synonyms and antonyms in a book or on the back of a cereal packet.
- **In the game:** Chapter 4 is about choosing the best synonym or antonym for a sentence.