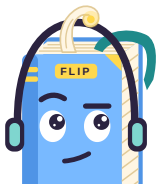
Name _____ Date _____

Synonym or antonym?

Two words can mean the same, mean the opposite, or not be linked in meaning at all.

1 Learn



Synonym and antonym sound alike, so they're easy to mix up. Here's a trick: **s**ynonym and **s**ame both start with **s**. **A**ntonym and **a**gainst both start with **a**!

Synonyms	Antonyms	Not linked
same or similar meaning	opposite meanings	neither: just different
big ≈ large	big ↔ little	big ? purple

Let's do one: are *rain* and *umbrella* synonyms, antonyms or not linked?

1. Do they mean the same? Swap test: "It's umbrella-ing outside." No!

2. Do they mean the opposite? No: an umbrella isn't the opposite of rain.

3. They're about the same **topic**, but they aren't linked in **meaning**. So they're **neither**.

Flip's tip: ask two questions in order. **1. Same meaning?** Synonyms. **2. Opposite meaning?** Antonyms. If both answers are no, the words are **not linked** in meaning, even if they go together.

Warm up: write **S** for synonyms or **A** for antonyms.

hot / cold ☐ begin / start ☐ rich / wealthy ☐ empty / full ☐

Grown-ups: use the terms "synonym" and "antonym" yourself whenever you can, so your child hears them used the right way round.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Book word hunt

You need: any book you have at home, and a pencil.

1. Open the book at any page. The grown-up chooses 4 interesting describing words or verbs from it.
2. For each word, the child thinks of a **synonym** and an **antonym**. The grown-up can help.
3. Write them in the table. Say each pair using the right term: "Gloomy and dark are **synonyms**."
4. Then hunt the page together: can you find a real pair of synonyms or antonyms in the book?

Word from the book	A synonym	An antonym

A pair we found in the book: _____

Grown-ups: not every word has an easy antonym (what's the opposite of "table"?). If you get stuck, that's a great discovery: choose another word.

3 Practise

A. Sort the pairs into the table. Write each pair in the right column.

polite / rude **shut / close** **teacher / school** **giggle / laugh** **remember / forget** **rain / puddle**

Synonyms	Antonyms	Not linked in meaning

Synonym or antonym?

Name _____ Date _____

B. Fill each gap with **synonyms** or **antonyms**.

1. *Ancient* and *modern* are _____.
2. *Furious* and *angry* are _____.
3. *Agree* and *disagree* are _____.
4. *Silent* and *noiseless* are _____.

C. Write one synonym and one antonym for each word.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
cheerful		
enormous		
gentle		
fearless		

D. Write a sentence that uses a pair of antonyms.

Challenge

Mia says, "**Day** and **night** are synonyms, because they're both about time." Is she right? Use the words *synonym* and *antonym* in your answer.

I can…

Tick when you can.

- [ ] say whether two words are synonyms or antonyms
- [ ] spot words that go together but aren't linked in meaning
- [ ] use the words synonym and antonym the right way round