

Synonyms and Antonyms

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Identify synonyms and antonyms
- Identify the connotations of synonyms and antonyms
- Use synonyms and antonyms to express precise meanings

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

You will need photocopies for students of:

- **Student Lesson Summary**, p. 155
- **Practice Worksheets**, Levels A and B, pp. 156–157
- **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 158

Teach

- 1. Introducing Synonyms and Antonyms:** Write the following set of words on the board.

large, ample, big, spacious, great, huge, colossal, enormous, immense, massive, towering, vast, gigantic, stupendous

- Call on a volunteer to identify what these words have in common. (*They are similar in meaning.*)
- Tell students that these words are **synonyms**, words with similar meanings. Next, write these pairs of words on the board.

big/little tiny/huge minute/enormous puny/gigantic

- Call on a volunteer to identify what these words have in common. (*They are opposites.*)
- Tell students that these words are **antonyms**, words with opposite meanings.
- Explain that it is important to know synonyms and antonyms so they can choose the right words to express themselves.

- 2. Teaching Synonyms and Antonyms:** Distribute the **Lesson Summary** and review the **Academic Vocabulary**. Call students' attention to the box of synonyms in **Step 1**. Point out that the words have similar meanings but that no two words have exactly the same meaning. Explain that the synonyms for *loudness* convey different shades of meaning, from "shrillness" (a high-pitched, piercing sound) to "thunder" (a deep, rumbling sound).

- Read through **Steps 2 and 3**. Then write this pair of sentences on the board.

For the British, the American Revolution was a colossal failure.

For Americans, winning independence from the British was a towering achievement.

- Call on volunteers to distinguish between the shades of meaning in these two sentences. (*Sample: The word colossal in the first sentence suggests an unbelievable disaster, while the word towering in the second sentence suggests a great accomplishment.*)
- Have students read the pairs of antonyms in **Step 4**. To make sure students understand the concept of antonyms, have them suggest antonyms for some other

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS, CONTINUED

words, such as *peace*, *ordinary*, and *frown*. (Sample: *war* or *conflict*, *rare* or *exceptional*, *smile* or *beam*) Tell students that not every word has an exact antonym. (Sample: *blue*, *statistics*, *fossil*, *prowl*)

- Call on a volunteer to read **Step 5** aloud. Then write a sample thesaurus entry on the board to illustrate the format to students.

Main Entry: postpone

Part of Speech: verb

Definition: put off

Synonyms: adjourn, defer, delay, hold off, hold up, lay over, put back, shelve, procrastinate, suspend, table

Antonyms: bring forward, do now, anticipate, accelerate, expedite

- Ask students to use the word *postpone* correctly in a sentence, and then write a second sentence using an antonym of the word. (Sample: *Congress postponed the hearings on the controversial issue until more witnesses were available. Congress expedited the hearings to achieve an answer more quickly.*)

3. Guided Practice: Write the following sentences on the board. To complete each sentence, ask students to name at least three possible synonyms for the meaning indicated in parentheses. Then have students vote on the synonym they prefer to complete the sentence.

- We took turns telling _____ (humorous) stories. (Sample: *funny, amusing, entertaining, playful, silly, jolly, laughable, witty*)
- Nancy felt _____ (angry) when her brother Paul refused to help her with her homework. (Sample: *annoyed, irritated, furious, provoked, infuriated, upset, displeased, indignant, bitter, resentful, sullen*)
- The children had a great time _____ (moving in play) around the yard with the dog. (Sample: *jumping, playing, romping, leaping, skipping, dancing, prancing, romping*)

QUICK CHECK. To test students' grasp of the lesson, write the following pairs of words on the board, and have students tell whether the pairs are synonyms or antonyms.

1. poverty/wealth (*antonyms*)
2. tension/anxiety (*synonyms*)
3. similar/different (*antonyms*)

Practice and Apply

Activities involving synonyms and antonyms appear on pp. 156–157.

- Assign **Practice Worksheet A** to students who need more structured activities.
- Assign **Practice Worksheet B** to grade-level and above-level students.

Answer Key: Practice Worksheet A

1. *c* 2. *c* 3. *a* 4. *a* 5. *b* 6. *b* 7. *a* 8. *b* 9. *c*
10. *b* 11. *c* 12. *b*

Answer Key: Practice Worksheet B

1. *available*
2. *extroverted*
3. *imaginative*
4. *mumble*
5. *mimic*
6. *obsolete*
7. *avoid*
8. *doubtful*
9. *demolishes*
10. **synonyms:** *leaving, retreat, exit, start*; **antonyms:** *arrival, landing, return, homecoming*; **sentence:** *It took my mother a week to pack, but our departure for the seashore finally took place.*
11. **synonyms:** *careful, alert, prudent, guarded, watchful*; **antonyms:** *rash, reckless, incautious, careless*; **sentence:** *On her first day in the new school, Chelsea was cautious about making new friends, but soon she relaxed and enjoyed meeting people.*
12. **synonyms:** *lazy, inactive, dull, lethargic*; **antonyms:** *energetic, lively, brisk*; **sentence:** *After being out sick for a week, Tommy felt sluggish on his first day back at school.*

Assess and Reteach

Use these guidelines to determine if students need the **Reteaching Worksheet**.

- **Practice Worksheet A:** Students should answer at least ten of the items correctly.
- **Practice Worksheet B:** Students should answer at least ten of the items correctly.

For students who need reteaching, review the **Lesson Summary**. Focus on the **Academic Vocabulary** and work through the **Here’s How** steps, using the examples on the page and the sentences in **Practice Worksheet A**. Then assign the **Reteaching Worksheet**, p. 158.

Answer Key: Reteaching Worksheet

1. *d* **2.** *c* **3.** *a* **4.** *f* **5.** *b* **6.** *e* **7.** *antonym: light; meaning: heavy, ponderous* **8.** *antonym: open; meaning: blocked, not able to be passed through* **9.** *antonym: childish; meaning: adult, grown-up* **10.** *antonym: shy; meaning: sociable*