

COMMON CORE

SKILLS & STRATEGIES FOR VOCABULARY

# Level 3

**Topics Include:**

Affixes, Base Words,  
Dictionary Entries, Word Attack Skills,  
Synonyms/Antonyms, Contractions/Possessives

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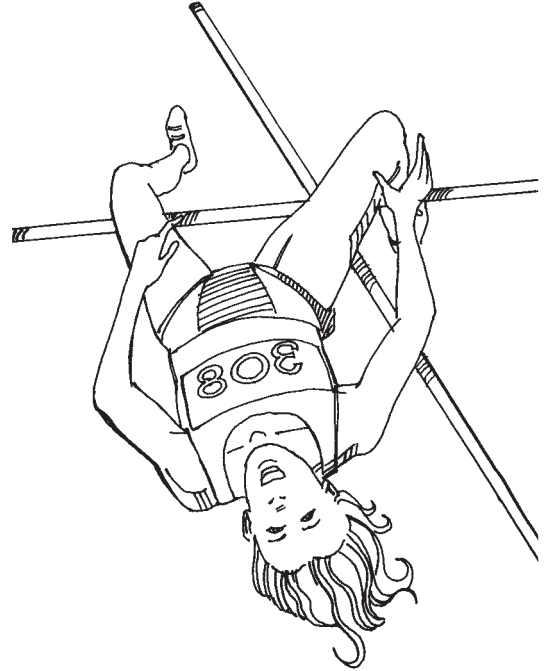
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## DEFINITIONS

The meaning of a word is called its **definition**.

whale feather slight vault

- A *whale* is a very large sea mammal.
- A *feather* is one of the soft, light parts that grow out of the skin of birds.
- Something *slight* is small in amount, strength, or importance.
- To *slight* something is to pay little or no attention to it.
- A *vault* is a room or special place for keeping valuable things.
- To *vault* is to jump over something.



**Directions:** Use the definitions to decide if each sentence below is true or false. If the sentence is *true*, write **T** on the line. If the sentence is *false*, write **F**.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A whale is likely to be found swimming in the sea.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Banks often lock money in a vault.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ If you vault a fence, you'll end up on the other side.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ A feather on a bird is somewhat like a hair on a dog.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Even the biggest whale is very slight in size.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A one-degree drop in temperature would be a slight change.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ If students slight their homework, they might not pass their tests.

## USING DEFINITIONS

You can be a poet! Just use the definitions to make the sentence pairs rhyme.

**chore****hero****knob****dozen****hum**

- A *chore* is a task that must be done.
- A *hero* is someone who is admired for doing something great or brave.
- A *knob* is a handle that is usually round.
- A *dozen* is a group of twelve.
- To *hum* is to sing with the lips closed, not saying the words.

**Directions:** Complete the rhymes. Choose one of the **boldface** words in the box above. Write it on the blank line.

1. The knock at the door is Uncle Bob!  
He can come right in if he turns the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The soccer score was one to zero.  
Then Mike scored a goal and was the team's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Making the bed can be a real bore.  
Nonetheless, it's your daily \_\_\_\_\_.
4. While you sing along, my guitar I'll strum.  
If you don't know the words, why don't you just \_\_\_\_\_?
5. At the dinner table sat my aunt and cousin.  
Plus the ten in my family, that made a \_\_\_\_\_.

## SYNONYMS 1

**Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning. Recognizing and using synonyms helps you build your vocabulary.**

**Directions:** Circle the synonym for each **boldface** word.

1. The meat looked red and **uncooked**.

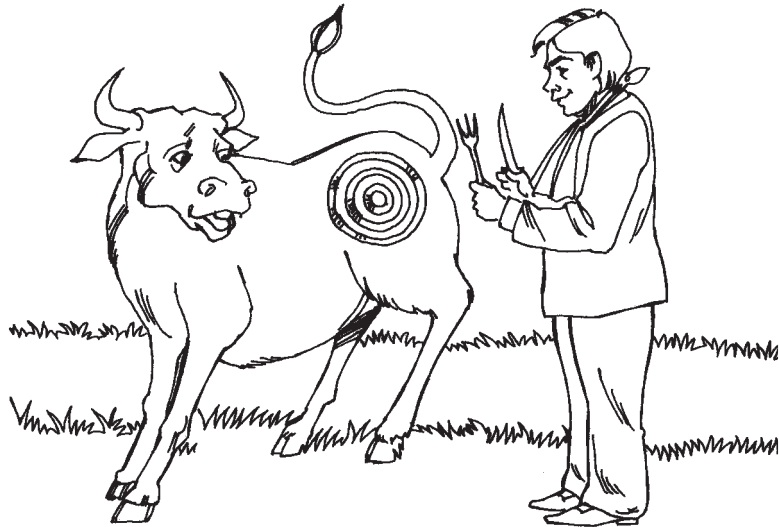
( delicious / raw )

2. Maria told the dentist she had a **pain** in her tooth.

( ache / hole )

3. I don't like cherry candy, so I'll **trade** this one for lime.

( exchange / sell )



4. We watched the waves from the sandy **beach**.

( shore / desert )

5. The museum is **normally** closed on Tuesdays.

( seldom / usually )

6. The teachers expect **students** to arrive on time.

( pupils / buses )

7. Randy is **almost** as tall as his brother.

( exactly / nearly )

8. Sally tells her secrets to her **friend** Anna.

( sister / pal )

9. She also writes her secrets in a **diary**.

( journal / newspaper )

10. A tunnel led from the **basement** to the garage.

( cellar / barn )

11. The tunnel had a **concealed** entrance.

( hidden / open )

12. Don't drink from a cup if the **edge** is chipped.

( rim / glass )

## SYNONYMS 2

*Use your wits to come up with the synonyms you need to correctly complete this page.*

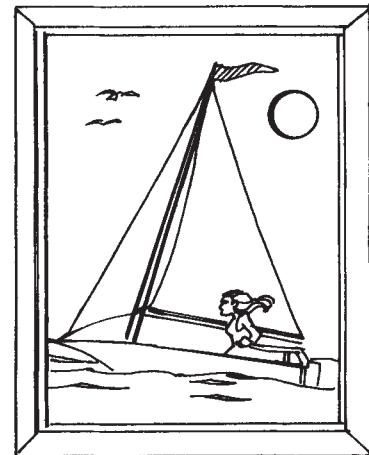
**A. Directions:** After each sentence, write a synonym for the **boldface** word. The synonym should begin with the letter *g*.

EXAMPLE: The **huge** oak tree has grown here for years. giant

1. The birthday **present** was wrapped in red paper. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Mr. Ramon will **donate** blood to the Red Cross. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The dog barks to **protect** his master's house. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The farmers were **happy** when the rain finally came. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Directions:** On each blank line, write a synonym for the **boldface** word. The synonym should begin with the letter *p*.

EXAMPLE: The drawing showed a woman on a sailboat. picture



1. Each **section** of the wall was a different color. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The workers dug a big **hole** in the field. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The **bundle** of paper was tied with string. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The farmer's prize **hog** won a ribbon at the fair. \_\_\_\_\_



## SYNONYMS 3

**Synonyms often add interest and variety to a story.**

**Directions:** Read the story. Then match the **boldface** words with their *synonyms* (words with the same or nearly the same meaning).

### Is Today the Day?

Brenda and her new husband, Bart, were out for a **walk** on a **cold** winter day. They walked past the **white** building that was the county animal shelter.

“Do you want to go in and see the dogs?” Brenda asked.

“Sure,” Bart **answered**, “but today is not the day to take one home! Remember, we decided to wait until summer to get a **dog!**”

Inside the shelter, a worker led Brenda and Bart down the hall to the dog kennel. They were greeted by many hopeful barks that were clearly saying, “Take me home!”

Then Brenda saw a **strong**, black and tan dog with its nose pressed against the gate. It won her heart. Both the dog and Brenda looked at Bart with big, **excited** eyes.

Maybe the time was right after all!

pup	eager	ivory	frosty	powerful	stroll	replied
-----	-------	-------	--------	----------	--------	---------

- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *walk*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *cold*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *white*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *answered*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *dog*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *strong*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a synonym for *excited*.



SYNONYM PRACTICE

**Practice working with these words to help your vocabulary grow.**

**Directions:** First, complete the sentences with words from the box. Then complete the puzzle with the same words. Write one letter on each line. The answer to the riddle will read from top to bottom.

WORDS TO KNOW

exchange	frosty	hum	ivory	journal	stroll	witness
----------	--------	-----	-------	---------	--------	---------

**Riddle:** *You might call me a “twin” because I am so much like another word.  
What am I?*

1. After dinner, it’s nice to take a slow \_\_\_\_\_ around the block.
2. Some of the piano’s 88 keys were black and others were \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. You can keep the sweater or \_\_\_\_\_ it for a larger size.
4. Juana wrote about daily events in her \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Angela would testify in court as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the defense.
6. As autumn turned to winter, the mornings became cold and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Everyone else knew the words to the song, but I had to \_\_\_\_\_ along.

SOLUTION: *I am a* ↘



1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____	_____

## "WHEN" AND "WHERE" WORDS 1

*Using the words in this exercise can help you answer when and where questions.*

**Directions:** Replace the **boldface** words in the sentences with a word from the box. Write the new words on the blank lines.

WORDS THAT TELL "WHEN" \_\_\_\_\_

**always**    **never**    **promptly**    **rarely**    **usually**

1. **On very few days** \_\_\_\_\_ do

I choose to eat my mother's meat loaf.

2. Mom **almost always** \_\_\_\_\_

cooks meat until it's as tough as leather.

3. When she's not looking, I **swiftly**

\_\_\_\_\_ feed the meat

loaf to our dog Barkly.

4. The dog has **at no time** \_\_\_\_\_

turned down meat.

5. **Every time** \_\_\_\_\_, Barkly drools and begs for more.



WORDS THAT TELL "WHERE" \_\_\_\_\_

**among**    **beside**    **distant**    **inside**    **neighboring**

6. Mirror Lake Mall, a wonderful shopping center, was built in a

**nearby** \_\_\_\_\_ city.

7. The center is **right next to** \_\_\_\_\_ the lake, so shoppers

can enjoy the view.

8. People come from **faraway** \_\_\_\_\_ places to shop at this mall.

9. You'll find a wonderful pizza restaurant **surrounded by** \_\_\_\_\_

gift shops, booksellers, and department stores.

10. When it's chilly outdoors, it's always warm and cozy

**within the mall** \_\_\_\_\_.

## "WHEN" AND "WHERE" WORDS 2

**Directions:** Write a sentence that answers each question. Use one of the *where* and *when* words below in each sentence.

WHEN WORDS

**after**  
**never**  
**seldom**  
**regularly**

WHERE WORDS

**near**  
**distant**  
**above**  
**beneath**

1. What do you do when the school day is over?

---



---

2. What is something you do only on rare occasions?

---



---

3. What is something you do each and every day?

---

4. What is something you always *avoid* doing in the classroom?

---

5. What interesting building is close to your school?

---

6. What relative lives the farthest from you?

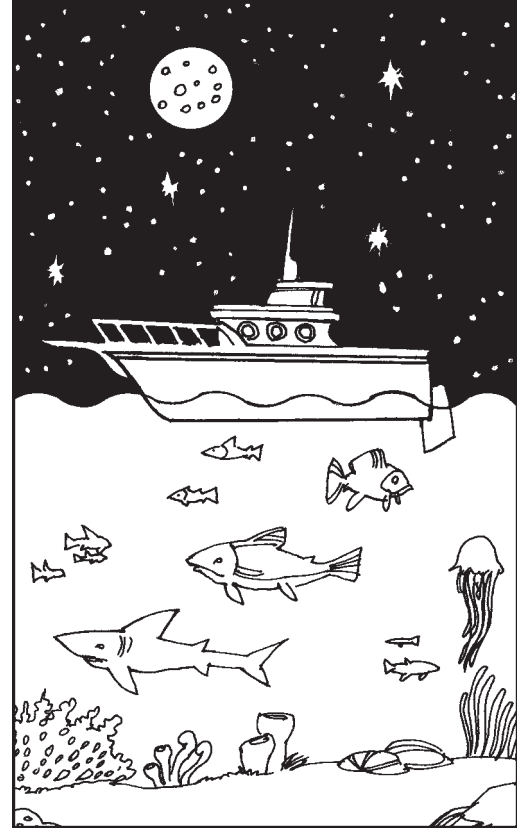
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7. If you look up right now, what do you see?

---

8. If you look down right now, what do you see?

---



## WORDS WITH MORE THAN ONE MEANING 1

*Many words have more than one meaning. The sound a bell makes is a ring. So is the band of jewelry you wear on your finger.*

**Directions:** Draw a picture in each box to illustrate the meaning of the **boldface** word.

1. a. A black **bat** is hunting for insects at night in a garden.



2. a. I read a thrilling mystery **story** about a jewel thief.



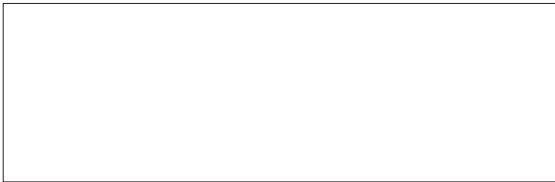
- b. Frank hit a home run with a swing of his new **bat**.



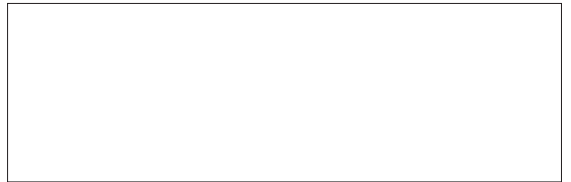
- b. We had a grand view from our 12th-**story** apartment.



3. a. The **base** of the triangle is three inches long.



4. a. At \$1.50 a **pound**, peaches were a bargain today.



- b. The noisy jet took off from the Air Force **base**.



- b. **Pound** the nails straight into the board, or the wood might crack.



**Challenge:** Show another meaning for the word *base*. Draw a picture on the back of this sheet.

# COMMON CORE

SKILLS & STRATEGIES FOR VOCABULARY

Level 3

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8

