

Level 4

Topics Include:

Dictionary Skills, Precise Word Choice,
Parts of Speech, Multiple-Meaning Words,
Synonyms/Antonyms, Abbreviations/Acronyms

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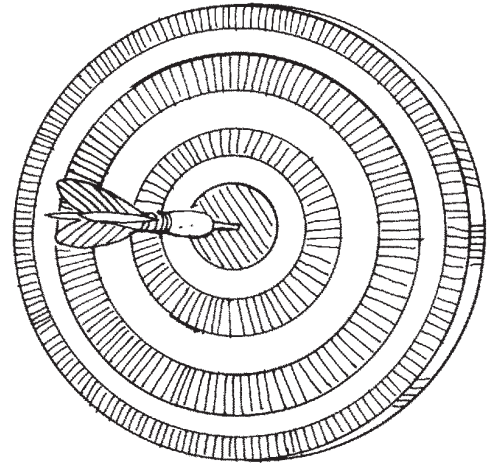
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USING DEFINITIONS 1

The meaning of a word is called its definition. Check out the definitions below. Then use the information to complete this worksheet.

target	denim	local	shadow
--------	-------	-------	--------

- A **target** is a thing aimed at; often a board with a circle; a goal one hopes to meet; can be someone that is attacked or made fun of.
- **Denim** is a coarse cotton cloth that will take hard wear. It is often dark blue in color.
- **Local** means having to do with a certain town or place.
- A **shadow** is a dark shape cast on a surface by something that cuts off the light; can be something that causes gloom or sadness.
- To **shadow** someone means to follow him or her around.



Directions: Use the above information to decide which word best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line.

1. The lamppost cast a _____ that looked like a tall, thin man.
2. The _____ park is a meeting place for neighborhood teens.
3. During Gold Rush days, a man named Levi Strauss created long-wearing work pants made of _____.
4. Gina's absence from home cast a _____ on her family.
5. As you complete these worksheets, your _____ should be building a great vocabulary.
6. The center circle of a _____ is called the "bull's-eye."

USING DEFINITIONS 2

Directions: Review the definitions in the previous exercise. Then choose words from the box that best complete the sentences in the paragraph. Write the words on the lines.

target

denim

local

shadow

FROM (1)_____ TO SUNSHINE

Shane was the new guy at school. He wasn't a (2)_____ kid. He came from another state. His (3)_____ pants were too short, and they weren't the "in" brand. Because he was different, Shane became a (4)_____ for teasing. Bullies would (5)_____ Shane through the halls, calling him names.

At the end of the day, Shane rode the (6)_____ bus home. At each of the many stops, he watched pals waving good-bye to each other. Shane felt invisible in the (7)_____ of his loneliness. Oh, how he wanted to make new friends! That was his (8)_____ for the school year.

Shane quickly met his goal, for he had a special talent. He could make people laugh. On a September afternoon, sitting in the (9)_____ of a leafy tree, Shane won over his classmates with the funniest stories they'd ever heard.

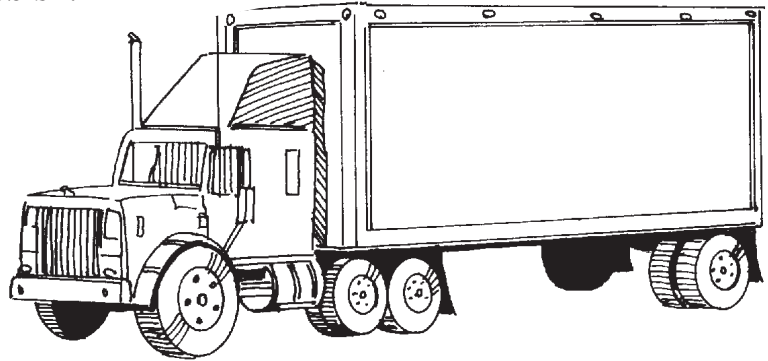


USING DEFINITIONS 3

You can put words to work if you know their definitions. Use the words below to write verses.

junk rig skipper slavery whittle

- **Junk** is old things of little value; rubbish.
- A **rig** is a truck tractor and the trailer attached to it.
- **Slavery** is the practice of people owning other people and giving them no freedom at all.
- A **skipper** is the captain of a ship or boat.
- To **whittle** is to carve wood by cutting away thin pieces with a knife.



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

1. To make a big stick very little,
Just get a knife and start to _____.
2. A box of torn papers, old clothes in a trunk.
What will we do with all of this _____?
3. That long-haul truck is very big!
It must take skill to drive that _____.
4. It took determined Americans' work and bravery
To pass the amendment that ended _____.
5. Ever since Joe was a little nipper,
He wanted to be a sailboat _____.

SYNONYMS 1

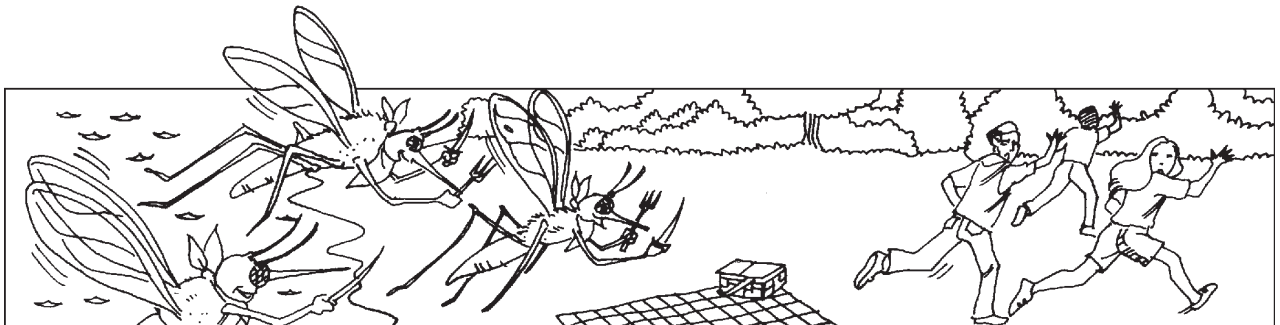
Different words often share the same or similar meanings. We call these words synonyms. You can increase your vocabulary and become a better writer by thinking about synonyms.

A. Directions: Draw a line to match each numbered word on the left with its *synonym* on the right.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------|------------|----------|
| 1. amend | untrue | 6. desire | backbone |
| 2. frequent | change | 7. perhaps | maybe |
| 3. false | fall | 8. shrewd | attorney |
| 4. courteous | often | 9. lawyer | clever |
| 5. autumn | polite | 10. spine | want |

B. Directions: Complete each sentence with a synonym of the word in parentheses. Use a dictionary if you need help.

1. The smell of the simmering soup made me _____ (hungry).
2. The recipe said to _____ (mix) milk and chocolate.
3. Lewis and Clark ended their _____ (trip) in the Pacific Northwest.
4. The warm room and the boring speaker made members of the audience begin to feel _____ (sleepy).
5. The _____ (pesky) mosquitoes chased us from the campground.

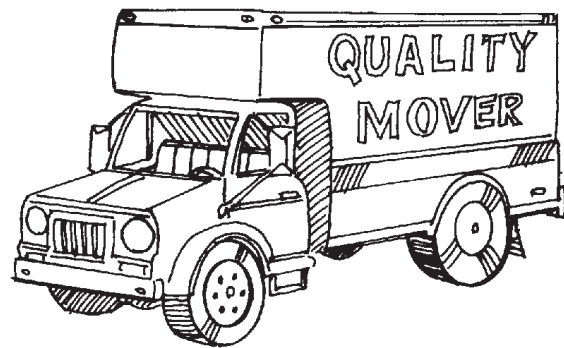


SYNONYMS 2

Synonyms are words with similar meanings. You'll find that most words have synonyms.

Directions: Read the sentences. Then circle the letter of the word that has the same meaning as the **boldface** word. Use a dictionary as needed.

1. Kim and Dave will move into the apartment when it becomes **vacant**.
a. clean b. empty c. built
2. Moving day can cause people a lot of **stress**.
a. variety b. curiosity
c. anxiety
3. "We could use some **assistance** with the move," Kim told Dave.
a. money b. help c. advice
4. "I'll ask Alberto," Dave said. "He's a **brawny** fellow."
a. smart b. nice c. strong
5. Kim and Dave were **thrilled** with their new apartment.
a. excited b. worried
c. thinking
6. It was much more **spacious** than their old place.
a. roomy b. crowded
c. expensive



7. They feel lucky to be **tenants** in such a nice building.
a. living b. renters c. adults
8. Kim, who is rather **finicky**, made Dave move the couch three times.
a. artistic b. picky c. nasty
9. When they were settled, Dave snapped photos for their **album**.
a. wall b. relatives
c. scrapbook
10. Moving into a new home is one of life's major **milestones**!
a. events b. problems
c. disasters

SYNONYMS 3

When more than one word will do the job, you get to choose the best one. That's how synonyms work.

Directions: Read each synonym pair. Then choose the word you like best and use it in an original sentence.

1. nervous / jumpy

2. wet / drenched



3. fortunate / lucky

4. die / perish

5. shine / glisten

SYNONYMS 4

Using synonyms adds variety and interest to writing.

Directions: Read each pair of sentences. Find a word in the second sentence that is a synonym of the **boldface** word in the first sentence. Write the synonym on the line.

1. Are you one of the millions of baseball **fans**? Most historians say that you and other followers of baseball have Abner Doubleday to thank.

2. Doubleday made up the **rules** of baseball. According to his regulations, it's three strikes and you're out!



3. Doubleday not only **invented** the rules. He also created the first real baseball field at Cooperstown, New York, in 1839.

5. A National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was **built**. It was erected in Cooperstown to honor Abner Doubleday.

4. A somewhat similar **game** had been played before that time. Doubleday's sport, however, was most like the baseball you know.

6. You might **know** about some of the players in baseball's Hall of Fame. Do you recognize the names Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and Cy Young?

ANTONYMS 1

Some words have opposite meanings. These words are called antonyms.

A. Directions: Draw a line to match each numbered word on the left with its *antonym* on the right.

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 1. wonderful | plump | 6. reckless | similar |
| 2. decrease | drought | 7. different | cautious |
| 3. slender | terrible | 8. north | appear |
| 4. flood | shy | 9. vanish | south |
| 5. bold | increase | 10. fragile | hardy |

B. Directions: Complete each sentence with an antonym of the word in parentheses. Use a dictionary if you need help.

- The man the police arrested was _____ (innocent).
- This is the most _____ (boring) book I've ever read!
- The resort is always crowded during the _____ (winter).
- Mr. Lumbock's classroom is often a place of _____ (chaos).
- Don't wash a wool sweater, or it will _____ (stretch).

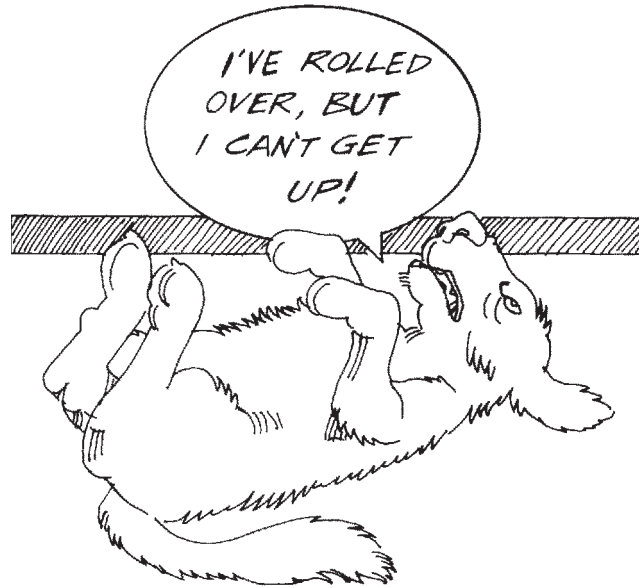


ANTONYMS 2

Up and down. In and out. Large and small. Do you recognize those words as antonyms?

A. Directions: Circle the *antonyms* (words with opposite meanings) in the sentences below.

1. It's better to give than to receive.
2. The country mouse went to visit the city mouse.
3. His moods blow hot and cold.
4. Don't spend more than you earn!
5. Truth is stranger than fiction.
6. It was an open and shut case.
7. Never leave until tomorrow what you can do today.
8. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.



B. Directions: Write an antonym for each word below.

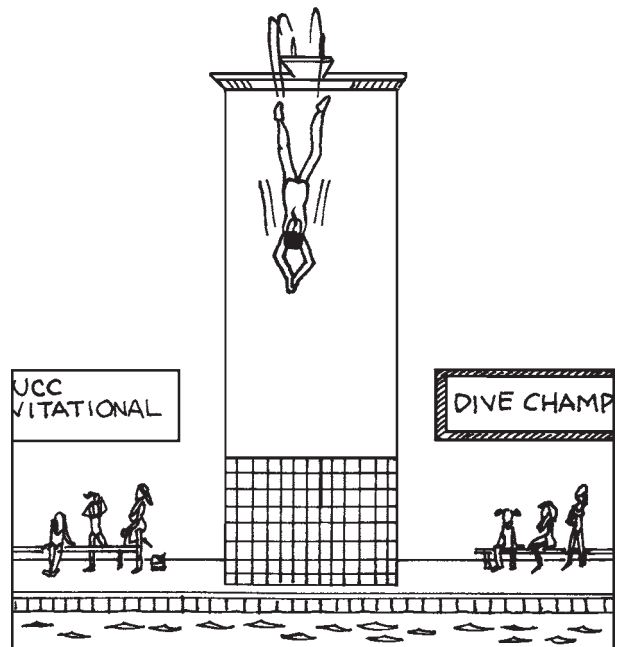
1. cheerful / _____
2. complex / _____
3. falsehood / _____
4. rude / _____
5. beautiful / _____
6. difficult / _____
7. leaders / _____
8. old-fashioned / _____
9. wet / _____
10. huge / _____
11. tall / _____
12. noisy / _____

ANTONYMS 3

You will stretch your vocabulary as you try to come up with more antonyms.

Directions: Complete the second sentence by writing an antonym for the **boldface** word in the first sentence.

- Tiger Torres plays **offense** for the football team. Mountain McGee plays _____.
- I don't like my steak **overcooked**. But it tastes even worse if it is _____.
- My 21-year-old cousin Ray is an **adult**. Sometimes, however, he acts like a _____.
- The gallery sold the yellow square of canvas as **valuable** art. To me, it looked _____.
- The huge wave rolled **toward** me from the sea. I moved _____ as fast as I could.
- "Don't expect a **reward** for your mischief!" Mother exclaimed. "You deserve a _____."
- Tara's puppy Maizie had been **lost** for three days. Can you imagine Tara's joy when Maizie was finally _____?
- Many people think that teenagers are **greedy**. I know lots of teens who are _____.
- My little sister Sadie has an **imaginary** friend. She talks about this fellow, Bozo, as if he were _____.
- Janice's first dive from the high board was terribly **flawed**. Her second dive, however, was nearly _____.



COMMON CORE

SKILLS & STRATEGIES FOR VOCABULARY

Level 3

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8