

Application and Reasoning

Step 3: Synonyms and Antonyms

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 6: (6G6.1) [How words are related by meaning as synonyms and antonyms \[for example, big, large, little\]](#)

Terminology for pupils:

- (6G6.1) [synonym](#)
- (6G6.1) [antonym](#)

Differentiation:

Questions 1, 4 and 7 (Reasoning)

Developing Prove if a statement is true or false. Vocabulary based on the Year 3 and 4 statutory spellings.

Expected Prove if a statement is true or false. Vocabulary based on the Year 5 and 6 statutory spellings.

Greater Depth Prove if a statement is true or false. Unfamiliar and challenging vocabulary used.

Questions 2, 5 and 8 (Application)

Developing Rewrite a sentence twice, replacing a certain word with a synonym and then an antonym. Vocabulary based on the Year 3 and 4 statutory spellings.

Expected Rewrite a sentence twice, replacing a certain word with a synonym and then an antonym. Vocabulary based on the Year 5 and 6 statutory spellings.

Greater Depth Rewrite a sentence twice, replacing a certain word with a synonym and then an antonym. Multi-clause sentences including unfamiliar and challenging vocabulary.

Questions 3, 6 and 9 (Reasoning)

Developing Explain how using a certain synonym or antonym would alter the meaning of a sentence. Vocabulary based on the Year 3 and 4 statutory spellings.

Expected Explain how using a certain synonym or antonym would alter the meaning of a sentence. Vocabulary based on the Year 5 and 6 statutory spellings.

Greater Depth Explain how using a certain synonym or antonym would alter the meaning of a sentence. Multi-clause sentences including unfamiliar and challenging vocabulary.

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Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms and Antonyms

1a. Is Anita correct? Prove it.

'Back' can only ever be an antonym for 'forward'.



R

1b. Is Dirk correct? Prove it.

'Sad' can only ever be a synonym for 'unhappy'.



R

2a. Rewrite the sentence below; once changing the underlined word for a synonym, and once for an antonym.

Changing the light bulb was very simple.



A

2b. Rewrite the sentence below; once changing the underlined word for a synonym, and once for an antonym.

You have to continue when I blow the whistle.



A

3a. Does changing the word 'forgotten' to 'remembered' in the sentence below alter its meaning? In what way?

She had forgotten how to make the cake.



R

3b. Does changing the word 'inactive' to 'lively' in the sentence below alter its meaning? In what way?

The kitten had been inactive today.



R

Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms and Antonyms

4a. Is Fred correct? Prove it.

'Wary' can only ever be a synonym for 'cautious'.



R

4b. Is Erica correct? Prove it.

'Rough' can only ever be an antonym for 'smooth'.



R

5a. Rewrite the sentence below; once changing the underlined word for a synonym, and once for an antonym.

My auntie's new baby was adorable.



A

5b. Rewrite the sentence below; once changing the underlined word for a synonym, and once for an antonym.

Leon thinks it's fun to embarrass me whenever we meet.



A

6a. Does changing the word 'immediately' to 'eventually' in the sentence below alter its meaning? In what way?

Marty wanted to eat the delicious cream cake immediately.



R

6b. Does changing the word 'desperately' to 'calmly' in the sentence below alter its meaning? In what way?

Carla was desperately trying to get her homework finished on time.



R

Synonyms and Antonyms

Synonyms and Antonyms

7a. Is Melanie correct? Prove it.

'Characterful' can only ever be an antonym for 'characterless'.



R

7b. Is Reuben correct? Prove it.

'Infatuated' can only ever be a synonym for 'obsessed'.



R

8a. Rewrite the sentence below; once changing the underlined word for a synonym, and once for an antonym.

Herman was particularly fastidious when it came to organising his tie collection.



A

8b. Rewrite the sentence below; once changing the underlined word for a synonym, and once for an antonym.

When they showed me the design for the atrium, I thought it was much too ostentatious.



A

9a. Does changing the word 'amenable' to 'obstinate' in the sentence below alter its meaning? In what way?

We should target Vince in the presentation, because he can sometimes be quite amenable.



R

9b. Does changing the word 'sympathetically' to 'antagonistically' in the sentence below alter its meaning? In what way?

When Mrs Oak was informed of our plans to protest, she responded sympathetically.



R

Application and Reasoning Synonyms and Antonyms

Developing

- 1a. No, because there are other words for which 'back' is an antonym e.g. front, onward.
- 2a. Accept any contextually appropriate synonym e.g. easy, straightforward and antonym e.g. hard, difficult.
- 3a. Yes. 'Remembered' is an antonym of 'forgotten', so its use reverses the meaning of the sentence.

Expected

- 4a. No, because there are other words for which 'wary' is a synonym e.g. cagey, guarded.
- 5a. Accept any contextually appropriate synonym e.g. gorgeous, delightful and antonym e.g. detestable, awful.
- 6a. Yes. 'Eventually' is an antonym of 'immediately', so its use reverses the urgency of the action.

Greater Depth

- 7a. No, because there are other words for which 'characterful' is an antonym e.g. bland, insipid.
- 8a. Accept any contextually appropriate synonym e.g. meticulous, scrupulous and antonym e.g. careless, slapdash.
- 9a. Yes. 'Obstinate' is an antonym of 'amenable', so its use reverses the reason for targeting Vince in the presentation.

Application and Reasoning Synonyms and Antonyms

Developing

- 1b. No, because there are other words for which 'sad' is a synonym e.g. gloomy, downcast.
- 2b. Accept any contextually appropriate synonym e.g. carry on, resume and antonym e.g. stop, cease.
- 3b. Yes. 'Lively' is an antonym of 'inactive', so its use reverses the meaning of the sentence.

Expected

- 4b. No, because there are other words for which 'rough' is an antonym e.g. sleek, flat.
- 5b. Accept any contextually appropriate synonym e.g. humiliate, mortify and antonym e.g. honour, respect.
- 6b. Yes. 'Calmly' is an antonym of 'desperately', so its use reverses the urgency of the action.

Greater Depth

- 7b. No, because there are other words for which 'infatuated' is a synonym e.g. besotted, enraptured.
- 8b. Accept any contextually appropriate synonym e.g. flashy, flamboyant and antonym e.g. understated, modest.
- 9b. Yes. It changes Mrs Oak's response from understanding to actively disagreeing with the protest.