

## Synonyms and Antonyms

Here are two strange sounding words: **synonyms** and **antonyms**. What do they mean? Synonyms are words that have the same, or very nearly the same meanings. Antonyms are word with opposite or very nearly opposite meanings. All parts of speech, like verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs and prepositions, can have synonyms and antonyms but the synonym or antonym would need to be the same part of speech. Here are some examples:

| Part of speech | Word    | Synonym   | Antonym |
|----------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Noun           | Child   | Kid       | Parent  |
| Verb           | Stay    | Remain    | Go      |
| Adjective      | Pretty  | Beautiful | Ugly    |
| Adverb         | Quickly | Hurriedly | Slowly  |
| Preposition    | In      | Inside    | Outside |

We often use synonyms when we write stories to avoid using the same word over and over. Read the following two sentences:

When I am big, I am going to buy myself a big car and stay in a big house in the country with big trees all around and a big field where I can keep horses and a big lake where I can swim and fish.

When I am big, I am going to buy myself a large car and stay in a spacious house in the country with enormous trees all around and a huge field where I can keep horses and a deep lake where I can swim and fish.

Which one sounds the most interesting?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Synonyms and Antonyms Questions

### A: Find your mate

Your teacher will give you a word. Look at everyone else's words until you find one, which is a synonym of yours. Working as a pair, fill in your words on the list and then try to think of a synonym for each of the other words.

| <u>Word</u>   | <u>Synonym</u> |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Run        |                |
| 2. Man        |                |
| 3. Clever     |                |
| 4. Buy        |                |
| 5. Sick       |                |
| 6. Tall       |                |
| 7. Friend     |                |
| 8. Shout      |                |
| 9. Difficult  |                |
| 10. Baby      |                |
| 11. Near      |                |
| 12. Different |                |
| 13. Work      |                |
| 14. Bad       |                |
| 15. Tiny      |                |

### B. Antonyms

Here are 15 antonyms for the words in the table. Write the correct number in the circle next to the antonym. The first one has been done for you.

stupid (3) well ( ) enemy ( ) big ( ) woman ( )  
 walk ( ) whisper ( ) play ( ) good ( ) short ( )  
 far ( ) easy ( ) adult ( ) same ( ) sell ( )

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Synonyms and Antonyms Answers

### Activity A

| Word          | Synonym     |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Run        | Jog         |
| 2. Man        | Guy         |
| 3. Clever     | Intelligent |
| 4. Buy        | Purchase    |
| 5. Sick       | Ill         |
| 6. Tall       | High        |
| 7. Friend     | Playmate    |
| 8. Shout      | Shriek      |
| 9. Difficult  | Hard        |
| 10. Baby      | Infant      |
| 11. Near      | Close       |
| 12. Different | Unlike      |
| 13. Work      | Chore       |
| 14. Bad       | Naughty     |
| 15. Tiny      | Little      |

### Activity B

stupid **3**   well **5**   enemy **7**   big **15**   woman **2**  
walk **1**   whisper **8**   play **13**   good **14**   short **6**  
far **11**   easy **9**   adult **10**   same **12**   sell **4**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

|        |           |             |
|--------|-----------|-------------|
| RUN    | JOG       | MAN         |
| GUY    | CLEVER    | INTELLIGENT |
| BUY    | PURCHASE  | SICK        |
| ILL    | TALL      | HIGH        |
| FRIEND | PLAYMATE  | SHOUT       |
| SHRIEK | DIFFICULT | HARD        |
| BABY   | INFANT    | NEAR        |
| CLOSE  | DIFFERENT | UNLIKE      |
| TINY   | LITTLE    | WORK        |
| CHORE  | BAD       | NAUGHTY     |