

Synonyms, Antonyms, and Homographs

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Synonyms are words with similar meanings (*big, large, huge, enormous*) — but they have *shades* of meaning. **Antonyms** are opposites (*hot/cold*). **Homographs** are words spelled the same but with different meanings, and sometimes different pronunciations (*bow = bend / bow = ribbon; lead = guide / lead = a metal*).

PRACTICE

Choose the **BEST** synonym, antonym, or homograph for each item.

- Which list of words is arranged from **WEAKEST** to **STRONGEST** in meaning?
 - chilly, cold, freezing, frigid
 - freezing, cold, chilly, frigid
 - frigid, freezing, cold, chilly
 - cold, chilly, frigid, freezing
- Which word is the **BEST ANTONYM** of **generous**?
 - kind
 - wealthy
 - cheerful
 - stingy
- The word **bow** is a homograph. Which sentence uses **bow** to mean *a knot with two loops*?
 - The actor took a deep **bow** after the play.
 - Lila tied a **bow** around the present.
 - The archer pulled back the **bow**.
 - The **bow** of the boat cut through the waves.
- Which word is the **BEST SYNONYM** for **furious**?
 - annoyed
 - frustrated
 - upset
 - enraged



5. The word **lead** is a homograph. Which sentence uses **lead** to mean *a heavy gray metal*?
- A. Please **lead** the way to the cafeteria.
 - B. She likes to **lead** group projects.
 - C. Old paint sometimes contained dangerous **lead**.
 - D. He took the **lead** in the race.
6. Which word is the BEST ANTONYM of **ancient**?
- A. old-fashioned
 - B. modern
 - C. historic
 - D. vintage
7. The word **tear** is a homograph. Which sentence uses **tear** to mean *a drop of water from the eye*?
- A. Don't **tear** the paper, please.
 - B. Be careful — there's a **tear** in your sleeve.
 - C. He was about to **tear** the letter in half.
 - D. A single **tear** rolled down her cheek.
8. Which list of words is arranged from MOST POSITIVE to MOST NEGATIVE in tone?
- A. arrogant, confident, conceited, proud
 - B. proud, confident, conceited, arrogant
 - C. confident, proud, arrogant, conceited
 - D. conceited, arrogant, confident, proud
9. Which word is the BEST SYNONYM for **brave**?
- A. courageous
 - B. loud
 - C. lucky
 - D. famous
10. The word **content** is a homograph. Which sentence uses **content** to mean *satisfied or happy*?
- A. The **content** of the box was a single book.
 - B. After dinner, the cat looked perfectly **content**.
 - C. Please review the **content** of the article.
 - D. The website's **content** is updated daily.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

1. A	A moves from a mild dip in temperature (<i>chilly</i>) to extreme cold (<i>frigid</i>). B, C, and D all jumble the order or end on a milder word. Knowing shades of meaning helps you pick the most precise word.
2. D	D — <i>stingy</i> = unwilling to share, the opposite of <i>generous</i> . A is a synonym of generous; B is unrelated (a person can be wealthy but not generous); C describes mood, not giving.
3. B	B — <i>tied a bow around the present</i> uses the loops-of-ribbon meaning. A is the bend-forward meaning; C is the weapon for shooting arrows; D is the front of a ship.
4. D	D — <i>furios</i> means extremely angry, and <i>enraged</i> matches that intensity. <i>Annoyed</i> , <i>frustrated</i> , and <i>upset</i> are all real synonyms of <i>angry</i> but much milder; using one of them would weaken the meaning.
5. C	C — <i>contained dangerous lead</i> uses the heavy metal meaning (pronounced /li■d/). A and B use lead meaning <i>guide</i> (/li■d/); D uses it to mean <i>first place</i> (/li■d/).
6. B	B — <i>modern</i> means belonging to the present, the opposite of <i>ancient</i> . A, C, and D are all near-synonyms of <i>ancient</i> , not opposites.
7. D	D — <i>rolled down her cheek</i> uses the eye-drop meaning (/t■r/). A and C use tear meaning <i>rip</i> (/t■r/); B is the noun meaning <i>a rip</i> (/t■r/).
8. C	C moves from a healthy <i>confident</i> through neutral <i>proud</i> to negative <i>arrogant</i> and <i>conceited</i> . A, B, and D either jumble the order or end on a positive word.
9. A	A — <i>courageous</i> is the closest synonym of <i>brave</i> . B, C, and D are unrelated traits (a brave person isn't necessarily loud, lucky, or famous).
10. B	B — <i>looked perfectly content</i> uses the adjective meaning satisfied/happy (stress on the SECOND syllable: /k■n■t■nt/). A, C, and D all use the noun content meaning <i>what is inside</i> (stress on the FIRST syllable: /■k■n■t■nt/).

