

Grade 7 Playlist: Word Relationships

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.5.B*:

- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.

Welcome

“Emily wasn’t just a little chatty; she was positively loquacious.” From this sentence, could a reader know what the word *loquacious* means? The fact that Emily was more than “just a little chatty” shows that she was quite talkative. Knowing this, the reader can tell that *chatty* and *loquacious* mean roughly the same thing; a loquacious person would be someone who likes to talk more than just a little. From identifying the relationships between words, the meanings of unknown words can be determined.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.

Review

Key Terms

- Two types of word relationships are between synonyms and between antonyms.
 - **Synonyms** are words that have the same meaning or approximately the same meaning. For example, the words *couch* and *sofa* have the exact same meaning: a piece of furniture that several people can sit on at once. However, *tidy* and *spotless* have approximately the same meaning. They both mean “clean,” although a tidy room is probably not as clean as a spotless one.
 - **Antonyms** are words that have opposite meanings. For example, the words *north* and *south* are antonyms, as are *weak* and *strong*.
- An **analogy** is another type of word relationship. In an analogy, an idea or thing is compared to another idea or thing. Analogies in literature often take the forms of similes or metaphors.
 - A **simile** compares two unrelated things by using the words *like* or *as*. For example, “The dancer’s feet were as light as feathers during her ballet solo.”
 - A **metaphor** compares two unrelated things without the use of *like* or *as*. For example, “The basketball player was a giraffe on the train, his head high above the other passengers.”



Exploring the Standard

It is often possible to determine the meaning of an unknown word by analyzing its relationship with other, more familiar words in the sentence. If the language used in a sentence expresses a synonym or antonym of the unknown word, readers can use the synonym or antonym to identify the meaning of the unfamiliar word. Similarly, if the language expresses an analogy, readers can use the comparison to identify the meaning of the unknown word. Readers use the relationships between the unknown word and the known words in the sentence to determine the unknown word's meaning.

A Closer Look: Synonyms and Antonyms

How can readers determine if two words are synonyms or antonyms if they do not know the meanings of both words? Sometimes a synonym or antonym relationship can be identified if the sentence uses conjunctions, such as *and*, *or*, or *but*, to connect the words. Read the sentences in the following examples. The unknown word in each sentence is underlined.

Watch!

Watch this video, starting at 1:22, to learn about synonyms and antonyms:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/synonyms-and-antonyms-youtube/99755>

Example 1

The speaker at the assembly was self-centered and arrogant, and we could not wait until his speech was finished.

The use of the conjunction *and* suggests that the words *self-centered* and *arrogant* are of equal value. Therefore, if *self-centered* is a negative value, then so is *arrogant*. Since it would be redundant to use two words that have the exact same meaning, the reader can assume that their meaning is approximately the same. The word *self-centered* means "concerned only with oneself." The word *arrogant*, then, would have a similar meaning.

Arrogant actually describes an "exaggerated sense of importance."

Example 2

Mr. Stevenson was callous but sympathetic towards all of his students.

The word *sympathetic* is a positive adjective that means "compassionate" or "expressing agreement in feeling." Since Mr. Stevenson is described as "callous *but* sympathetic," the reader can assume that *callous* and *sympathetic* are antonyms. The adjective *callous* would be a negative.

The word *callous* actually means "hard and rough."

