

★ LESSON 101: WORDS OF OPPOSITE MEANING

10 Antonym Pairs • 20 Core Words • Penmanship & Story Synthesis

1 Antonym Pairs: Pronounce each contrasting pair aloud, observe spelling patterns, and write each word neatly.

10 Pairs • 26px Standard Penmanship

PAIR 1: ELEVATION & SPACE		Opposites
► lōw	Adj.	► hīgh
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 2: FACIAL EXPRESSION		Opposites
► smīle	V./N.	► frown
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 3: EMOTION & MOOD		Opposites
► sād	Adj.	► glād
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 4: MATERIAL CONDITION		Opposites
► rīch	Adj.	► pōōr
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 5: QUANTITY & DEGREE		Opposites
► mūch	Adj./Adv.	► līt-tle
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 6: COMPARATIVE MEASURE		Opposites
► mōre	Adj./Adv.	► lēss
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 7: TEXTURE & FIRMNESS		Opposites
► hārd	Adj.	► sōft
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 8: TRUTH & VERACITY		Opposites
► trūe	Adj.	► false
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 9: TASTE & SENSATION		Opposites
► swēēt	Adj.	► sour
_____	↔	_____
PAIR 10: MORAL & ACCURACY		Opposites
► rīght	Adj.	► wrōng
_____	↔	_____

2 Orthographic Detective: Explore silent letters, the two sounds of “ow,” and doubled consonants.

Phonics • Spelling Rules

 Silent Letters: w & gh In wrong, the initial w is silent (/rɒŋ/). In high & right, the trigraph igh produces long ī while gh is silent (/haɪ/, /raɪt/).	 Two Sounds of "ow" low: Digraph ow = long ō (/loʊ/). frown: Diphthong ow = /aʊ/ (as in <i>brown, town, clown</i>). Wheeler contrasts vowel sounds side by side!	 Doubled Letters: less & little less: Floss Rule — double s after short e. little: Doubled tt preserves short ī in the first closed syllable (<i>lĭt-tle</i>).
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3 **Wheeler's Composition Challenge:** Write a little story containing as many of these words as possible.

Creative Narrative • Goal: 10+ Antonyms

i Story Idea: Contrast two characters (e.g. a proud rich traveler and a humble little cottage boy) or a sudden turnaround in fortune!

Check off each word used:

[illegible]



1. Complete 20-Word Antonym Matrix (10 Pairs Analyzed)

Phonetics • Morphology • Orthographic Pitfalls

#	Antonym Pair	Phonetics / IPA	Semantic Domain	Orthographic Analysis & Socratic Teacher Focus
1	low / high	low /lou/ (lōw) high /haɪ/ (hīgh)	Elevation & Space	Silent gh in high. Low features long ō spelled with digraph ow (compare blow, row).
2	smile / frown	smile /smaɪl/ frown /fraʊn/	Facial Expression	Contrast in ow sound: frown (/aʊ/) vs. low (/oʊ/). Split digraph i_e in smile.
3	sad / glad	sad /sæd/ glad /glæd/	Emotion & Mood	Exact phonogram rhyme: short ā + d (-ad family). Demonstrates how rhyming words can be direct antonyms.
4	rich / poor	rich /rɪʃ/ poor /puər/ ~ /pɔːr/	Material State	Digraph ch after short ī in rich. Vowel team oo + r in poor. Historical socioeconomic theme.
5	much / little	much /mʌʃ/ little /ˈlɪtəl/	Quantity / Degree	Short ū + ch in much. Disyllable with consonant -le and doubled tt in little.
6	more / less	more /mɔːr/ less /les/	Comparative Degree	Split digraph o_e in more (r-controlled). Floss Rule in less (doubled s after short vowel).
7	hard / soft	hard /hɑːrd/ soft /soft/ ~ /sɔːft/	Texture / Firmness	R-controlled vowel ar (/ɑːr/) in hard. Broad/short ō before tt in soft (studied in Lesson 98).
8	true / false	true /truː/ false /fɔːls/	Truth & Veracity	Vowel team ue = /uː/ in true. Broad a (/ɔː/) before l with silent final e in false.
9	sweet / sour	sweet /swiːt/ sour /ˈsaʊ.ər/	Taste & Sensation	Vowel team ee = /iː/ in sweet. Digraph ou = /aʊ/ before r in sour.
10	right / wrong	right /raɪt/ wrong /rɒŋ/ ~ /ɔːŋ/	Moral & Accuracy	Silent gh in right (homophone with write/rite). Silent w before r in wrong with velar nasal ŋg.

2. Model Exemplar Contrast Story (All 20 Words Seamlessly Embedded)

20 / 20 Target Words • Victorian Fable

“Once there lived a **poor** boy who dwelt in a **low** cottage by the dark woods. Though he owned **little** bread and had **less** gold than the **rich** squire on the **high** hill, he kept a cheerful heart. While the grumpy squire wore a dark **frown** and found the world **hard** and **sour**, the humble lad wore a bright **smile** and was never **sad** for long. ‘Is it **true** or **false** that gold brings joy?’ wondered the lad. One bitter winter evening, an old traveler knocked at the squire’s gate. The proud squire gave him **wrong** directions and **sour** rebukes; but the boy welcomed him with **soft** hay and **sweet** honey from his hive. He gave **much** of what he had, asking for no **more**. The grateful traveler turned to the boy with a **glad** voice and said: ‘You know what is **right** and noble, my son; kindness is the truest wealth.’”

Teacher Note: Have students read the story aloud and underline each pair of opposites in contrasting colors (e.g. red for one pole, blue for its opposite).

3. Decodable Dictation Sentences (Reinforcing Paired Contrast & Syntax)

Oral Dictation • Applied Orthography

- “The **poor** child looked up from the **low** valley to the **high** hills with a sunny **smile**.” (Focus: poor, low, high, smile • capitalization & terminal period)
- “A **true** friend will not **frown** when you are **sad**, but will make your heart **glad**.” (Focus: true, frown, sad, glad • ow=/aʊ/ vs. -ad rhyme)
- “It is **right** to give **more** help to those who have **less**, and **much** kindness to the **little** ones.” (Focus: right, more, less, much, little • silent gh, Floss rule)
- “The **rich** merchant learned that **wrong** deeds make a **hard** pillow, while **sweet** peace is **soft** and **true**.” (Focus: rich, wrong, hard, sweet, soft, true • silent w, split senses)

4. Evaluative Scoring Rubric & Socratic Discussion Guide

20 Total Points

Word Accuracy (5 pts)

All 20 words spelled accurately; silent letters (w, gh) and doubled letters respected.

Penmanship (5 pts)

Clean baseline alignment on 26px lines; ascenders (h, t, l) and descenders (g, y, p) clear.

Antonym Usage (5 pts)

At least 8–10 antonyms woven purposefully into student’s story with clear semantic contrast.

Syntax & Flow (5 pts)

Complete narrative sentences, proper punctuation, creative contrast between settings/actions.

Socratic Inquiries for Oral Language: • *Physical vs. Inner:* Can a person dwell in a **low** cottage but have **high** thoughts and ideals? • *Appearance vs. Reality:* Can a **smile** be **false**, or **sweet** words hide **sour** feelings? • *The Wealth Paradox:* How can someone with **little** gold be rich in kindness, while someone with **much** treasure remains **poor** in spirit?