



Read, Write, Now

Unit

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National PASS Center  
Genesee Migrant Center  
3 Mt. Morris-Leicester Road  
Leicester, NY 14418  
(585) 658-7960  
(585) 658-7969 (fax)  
[www.migrant.net/pass](http://www.migrant.net/pass)

**Authors:** Kate Warner  
Linda Shanks  
Sally Fox  
Valerie Putney

**Editor:** Sally Fox

**Proofer:** Donna Katter

**Formatting:** Eva McKendry  
Kate Warner

**Graphics:** Eva McKendry  
Kate Warner  
Linda Shanks  
Sally Fox  
Valerie Putney

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## Synonyms, Antonyms, and Homonyms

A good way to add more words to your reading and writing vocabulary is by working with *synonyms* and *antonyms*.

### Synonyms

A **synonym** is a word that means the same or almost the same thing as another word.

#### Example:

The word **hot** is on the labels of some sauces. The word **spicy** is also on the labels of some sauces. The two words have the same meaning. Sometimes when you describe something that is *spicy*, you call it *hot*. Sometimes when you eat something *hot*, you say that it is very *spicy*. **Hot** and **spicy** are *synonyms*.

Often times, words can have more than one meaning. For example, we have just learned that hot can mean spicy, but hot can also refer to temperature. You can describe the temperature outside as **hot** or you can say it is **warm**. **Hot** and **warm** are *synonyms* because they mean nearly the same thing.

Circle the **synonym** for each word. The first one is done for you.

- |           |          |                |          |
|-----------|----------|----------------|----------|
| 1. gas    | a. water | <b>b.</b> fuel | c. food  |
| 2. earth  | a. water | b. sky         | c. world |
| 3. field  | a. land  | b. water       | c. house |
| 4. across | a. above | b. over        | c. under |
| 5. smile  | a. frown | b. kiss        | c. grin  |

Now, write a synonym for each underlined word. The first one is done for you.

6. Miami is a large city in Florida.

**Synonym:** town

7. My father's house is near the Genesee River.

**Synonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

8. Paula has a young puppy to show her brother.

**Synonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

9. The small table by the window is for writing letters.

**Synonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

10. I slept for an hour.

**Synonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Antonyms

An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word.

**Example:**

***Laugh*** is the opposite of ***cry***

***Below*** is the opposite of ***above***

Circle the antonym for each word.

- |            |          |              |          |
|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 11. pretty | a. ugly  | b. smart     | c. funny |
| 12. dead   | a. gone  | b. sad       | c. alive |
| 13. honest | a. fair  | b. dishonest | c. mad   |
| 14. less   | a. equal | b. smaller   | c. more  |
| 15. many   | a. few   | b. a lot     | c. more  |

Write an **antonym** for the underlined word in each sentence.

16. A weak wind blew the oak tree over last night.

**Antonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

17. Small children like to work near the fields when their parents pick crops.

**Antonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

18. Roberto looked serious in the photo.

**Antonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

19. The steep valleys made the walk very hard to complete.

**Antonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

20. My soccer team lost the game yesterday.

**Antonym:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Homonyms

**Homonyms** are words that sound the same and are sometimes spelled the same, but have different meanings.

### Example:

sale: the selling of goods at a reduced price  
sail: to move along or travel over water in a boat

*These two words sound the same, are spelled differently, and have different meanings.*

rose: a type of flower  
rose: the past tense of “rise”

*These two words sound the same, are spelled the same, and have different meanings.*

### Some commonly misused homonyms are:

#### **to, too, two:**

*I went to the store.*

*I want to go, too.*

*Two people went to the store.*

#### **there, their, they're:**

*There were many books at the library.*

*They left their books at home.*

*They're going to the movies.*

#### **weather, whether:**

*It is nice weather today.*

*I need to decide whether or not I need a coat.*

#### **your, you're:**

*This is your pencil.*

*You're very handsome.*

It is important to use the correct word in a sentence so that what you are writing makes sense to others. Take a look at the two sentences below:

*She took her son to the candy aisle.*

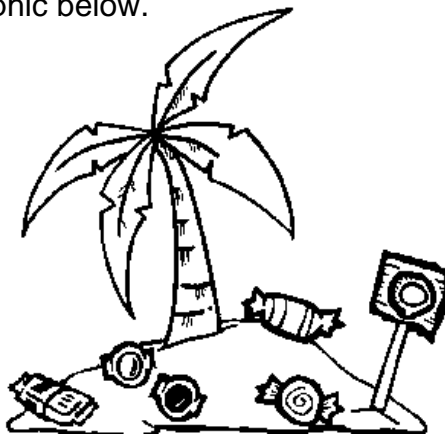
*She took her son to the candy isle.*

Which underlined word is correct? Isle or aisle? Well, let's explore the meaning of each word.

An aisle is a walkway between seats in a theater, shelves in a store, etc. So, a *candy aisle* is a walkway between shelves of candy at a store. The reader should picture something like the graphic below when reading about a candy aisle.



An isle is another word for a small island. So, a *candy isle* would be a small island filled with candy, which doesn't make much sense. The reader might picture something silly, like the graphic below.



Write a sentence for each homonym. Here is an example:

**rains**



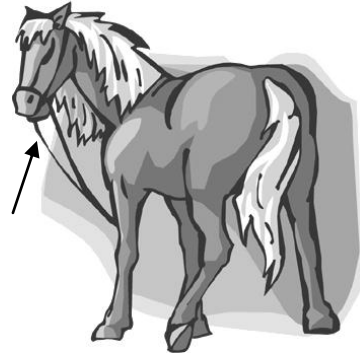
Heavy rains caused flooding.

**reigns**



The king reigns over the land.

**reins**



Grab the reins on the horse.

**towed**



21.

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**toad**



22.

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**meet**



23.

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**meat**



24.

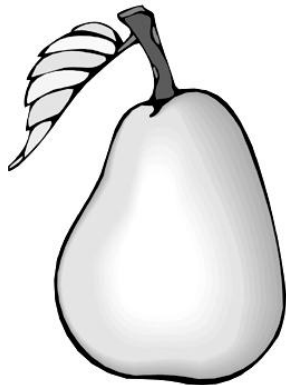
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**pear**



25.

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**pair**



26.

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Circle the word that best completes each sentence. The first one is done for you.

27. He ( nose / knows ) the answer.
28. A penny is worth one ( scent / sent / cent ).
29. Please ( pour / pore / poor ) me a glass of milk.
30. Tonight you will ( read / reed ) chapter three.
31. The ( balled / bald / bawled ) man always wears a hat.
32. I have a runny ( nose / knows ) today.
33. I ( new / knew ) the correct answer.
34. I can feel cold ( heir / air ) blowing through the window.
35. The rope was in a tight ( knot / not ).
36. We will ( by / bye / buy ) you some ice cream.
37. The little boy ( balled / bald / bawled ) after he fell down.
38. The morning ( due / dew / do ) sparkled as the sun rose.
39. ( There / Their / They're ) car is blue.
40. My ( eye / I ) is feeling better.
41. He is the ( air / heir ) to the throne.
42. There are ( to / too / two ) many people here.
43. My rent is ( due / dew / do ) tomorrow.
44. ( Your / You're ) sister is tall.

**Academic & Career Readiness Skills**

Write a sentence using each homonym. You may use a dictionary to check the meaning of each word if needed.

**45.** flower: \_\_\_\_\_

flour: \_\_\_\_\_

**46.** made: \_\_\_\_\_

maid: \_\_\_\_\_

**47.** threw: \_\_\_\_\_

through: \_\_\_\_\_

**48.** here: \_\_\_\_\_

hear: \_\_\_\_\_

**49.** sale: \_\_\_\_\_

sail: \_\_\_\_\_

**50.** hare: \_\_\_\_\_

hair: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe more than one meaning of each word below. The first one is done for you.

51. bank: The piece of land by the edge of a river or other body of water.  
A place where money is held.

52. bark: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

53. bat: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

54. fan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

55. fine: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write a sentence using each homonym below.

56. pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

57. row: \_\_\_\_\_

58. seal: \_\_\_\_\_

59. well: \_\_\_\_\_

∞ End of Lesson 5 ∞