

4.46b Synonyms, Antonyms, and Homophones Assessment

Directions: Read the article. Choose the best answer for each question.

Better Roads

This text is adapted from an original work of the Core Knowledge Foundation.

1. By the 1750s, the colonists in the area now known as the United States were coming together for a number of reasons. For one, they were borrowing ideas and customs from one another. They even borrowed words from languages to create a new form of English known as American English. In addition to the cultural and linguistic exchanges, the colonists were also brought together by improved roads. These roads were not very good compared to our own. They were narrow, often muddy, and filled with tree stumps. Still, they were better than the roads of fifty or a hundred years earlier. These roads made it easier to travel through the colonies. Easier travel led to increased trade among the colonies.
2. Better roads also improved communications by speeding up the exchange of information. In the mid-1750s, mail delivery between Philadelphia and Boston increased to once a week instead of every two weeks. That meant that newspapers printed in the cities could be delivered to colonists in the countryside more easily. Colonists could now read the same news and stay informed about the same things.
3. In all these ways, colonists of many different backgrounds were starting to come together. They were beginning—just beginning, of course—to have more things in common. This coming together soon became very important.

1. Which two words are synonyms of increased as used in paragraph 2?

receded	decreased
elevated	heightened
dropped	

2. Which word is an antonym for different as used in paragraph 1?

- A. diverse
- B. various
- C. similar
- D. unlike

3. Choose the two words that sound the same but are spelled differently

- A. course - coarse
- B. come - came
- C. cal - call
- D. Kat - Kate

4. Which two words are antonyms of the word common as used in paragraph 3?

usual	irregular
abnormal	typical

5. In which sentence is the underlined word used correctly?

- A. The colonists grew there own food.
- B. In colonial times colonists had their own horses.
- C. They're farms kept them busy all day long.
- D. There American English was formed.

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Are Spiders insects?

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1. People often confuse spiders with insects. But a quick leg count reveals the difference. Insects—such as ants, bees, and flies—have six legs. Spiders have eight legs. There are other differences, too. Most insects have wings and antennae, but spiders have neither. And unlike insects, spiders have venom-injecting fangs.
2. So if spiders aren't insects, what are they? They're arachnids, the group of boneless, eight-legged animals that includes ticks, mites, scorpions, and daddy longlegs. And one more thing about spiders: All of them are predators of insects and other small prey, but most are absolutely harmless to humans.

6. Which two words are antonyms of unlike as used in paragraph 1?

diverse	varied	similar
like	identical	

7. Which word is an antonym for harmless as used in paragraph 2?

- safe
- benign
- innocent
- hazardous

8. Choose the two words that sound the same but are spelled differently

- tele - teal
- whor - war
- fair - fare
- set - seat

9. Which two words are synonyms of the word predator as used in paragraph 2?

prey	destroyer
hunter	friend

10. In which sentence is the underlined word used correctly?

- A. On Wednesday we get the adds in the newspaper.
- B. My mother listened to the add on the radio.
- C. The teacher had us ad all the response for the party.
- D. We read an ad about free food on the flyer.