

Understanding Word Meanings Worksheet

Understanding Word Meanings - Readers use different strategies to understand unfamiliar words.

Context Clues - Words or sentences around an unknown word that help explain its meaning.

Synonyms - Words that have the same or nearly the same meaning.

Antonyms - Words that have opposite meanings.

Prefixes & Suffixes - Word parts added to the beginning or end of a word that change its meaning.

Part I – Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer.

1. A synonym for “happy” is:
A. Sad
B. Angry
C. Joyful
D. Nervous
 2. An antonym for “large” is:
A. Huge
B. Tiny
C. Wide
D. Tall
 3. What does the prefix “un-” usually mean?
A. Again
B. Not
C. Before
D. Full of
 4. What does the suffix “-ful” mean in the word “hopeful”?
A. Without
B. Full of
C. Before
D. Small
 5. Which word is most likely a synonym for “quick”?
A. Slow
B. Rapid
C. Quiet
D. Weak
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Part II – Context Clues - Read each sentence and use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

6. The desert was so arid that very few plants could grow there.

What does “arid” mean?

- A. Wet
- B. Dry
- C. Cold
- D. Dark

7. Mia felt exhausted after running five miles in the race.

What does “exhausted” mean?

- A. Excited
- B. Energetic
- C. Very tired
- D. Confused

8. The tiny kitten was very **fragile**, so the children held it carefully.

What does "fragile" mean?

- A. Strong
- B. Dangerous
- C. Easily broken
- D. Loud

9. The teacher's instructions were **brief**, lasting only a minute or two.

What does "brief" mean?

- A. Long
- B. Short
- C. Confusing
- D. Loud

10. Jake was **furious** when he lost his homework assignment.

What does "furious" mean?

- A. Angry
- B. Happy
- C. Calm
- D. Proud

Part III – Prefixes and Suffixes

11. What does the prefix "re-" mean?

- A. Again
- B. Not
- C. Under
- D. Full of

12. Which word means "not fair"?

- A. Replay
- B. Careless
- C. Unfair
- D. Helpful

13. What does the suffix "-less" mean?

- A. Full of
- B. Without
- C. Again
- D. Before

14. Which word means "full of care"?

- A. Careless
- B. Careful
- C. Replay
- D. Unkind

15. What does the prefix "pre-" mean?

- A. After
- B. Again
- C. Before
- D. Not