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Synonyms vs Antonyms

Definition

Synonyms are words that have the same or similar meanings. They can often be substituted for one another in a sentence while maintaining the general sense. **Antonyms** are words with opposite meanings. Both relationships help writers build vocabulary and choose precise words.

Example

Word	Synonyms	Antonyms
happy	joyful, glad, cheerful	sad, unhappy, miserable
big	large, huge, enormous	small, tiny, little
quick	fast, rapid, speedy	slow, sluggish, leisurely
beautiful	attractive, pretty, gorgeous	ugly, unattractive, plain

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PART 1: Identifying Relationships

Determine whether each pair of words related to Phoenician maritime trade are synonyms (S) or antonyms (A).

1. ____ merchant / trader
2. ____ export / import
3. ____ coastal / inland
4. ____ profitable / lucrative
5. ____ sturdy / fragile

PART 2: Multiple Choice - Finding Synonyms

Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence about Phoenician maritime trade.

1. The Phoenicians were renowned for their exceptional shipbuilding skills.
a) unknown
b) famous
c) criticized
d) Amateur
2. Phoenician merchants established numerous trading posts throughout the Mediterranean.
a) few
b) multiple
c) temporary
d) isolated

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3. Their ships transported valuable cargo across vast distances.

- a) worthless
- b) heavy
- c) precious
- d) damaged

4. The ancient mariners navigated by observing celestial bodies.

- a) sailors
- b) soldiers
- c) farmers
- d) artisans

5. Phoenician traders were adept at negotiating favorable trade agreements.

- a) unsuccessful
- b) skilled
- c) slow
- d) cautious

PART 3: Multiple Choice - Finding Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence about Phoenician maritime trade.

1. The Phoenicians constructed durable ships that could withstand rough seas.

- a) colorful
- b) fragile
- c) expensive
- d) enormous

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2. Ancient accounts praised the Phoenicians for their abundant trade goods.

- a) scarce
- b) exotic
- c) cheap
- d) traditional

3. Sailing conditions were often perilous during winter months.

- a) difficult
- b) unpredictable
- c) safe
- d) Common

4. Their advanced navigation techniques were superior to those of their competitors.

- a) primitive
- b) secret
- c) complex
- d) copied

5. Phoenician traders were willing to venture into uncharted waters.

- a) hesitant
- b) eager
- c) prepared
- d) allowed

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PART 4: Completing Sentences with Synonyms and Antonyms

Fill in the blanks with appropriate synonyms or antonyms as indicated.

1. The Phoenicians were expert sailors; they were (synonym of "skilled") _____ at reading weather patterns to avoid storms.
2. While some trade routes were profitable, others were (antonym of "profitable") _____ due to pirates and harsh conditions.
3. Phoenician ships were (synonym of "swift") _____ compared to the (antonym of "swift") _____ vessels of their competitors.
4. Their trading network was (synonym of "extensive") _____, not (antonym of "extensive") _____ like those of smaller civilizations.
5. Phoenician merchants were known to be (synonym of "shrewd") _____ in business dealings, never (antonym of "shrewd") _____ when negotiating prices.

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PART 5: Creating Related Word Pairs

For each word related to Phoenician maritime trade, write both a synonym and an antonym.

1. Ancient

Synonym: _____

Antonym: _____

2. Valuable

Synonym: _____

Antonym: _____

3. Expand

Synonym: _____

Antonym: _____

4. Alliance

Synonym: _____

Antonym: _____

5. Discover

Synonym: _____

Antonym: _____

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Synonyms vs Antonyms – Answer Key

PART 1: Identifying Relationships

1. S (merchant / trader)
2. A (export / import)
3. A (coastal / inland)
4. S (profitable / lucrative)
5. A (sturdy / fragile)

PART 2: Multiple Choice - Finding Synonyms

1. b) famous
2. b) multiple
3. c) precious
4. a) sailors
5. b) skilled

PART 3: Multiple Choice - Finding Antonyms

1. b) fragile
2. a) scarce
3. c) safe
4. a) primitive
5. a) hesitant

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Synonyms VS Antonyms – Answer Key

PART 4: Completing Sentences with Synonyms and Antonyms

1. proficient (or adept, accomplished, masterful)
2. unprofitable (or costly, unsuccessful)
3. rapid (or fast, quick); slow (or sluggish, plodding)
4. vast (or widespread, far-reaching); limited (or restricted, confined)
5. astute (or clever, cunning); foolish (or naive, gullible)

PART 5: Creating Related Word Pairs

1. Ancient

Synonym: historic, primeval, age-old

Antonym: modern, recent, current

2. Valuable

Synonym: precious, costly, prized

Antonym: worthless, cheap, insignificant

3. Expand

Synonym: grow, enlarge, increase

Antonym: shrink, contract, reduce

4. Alliance

Synonym: partnership, coalition, union

Antonym: rivalry, opposition, conflict

5. Discover

Synonym: find, uncover, detect

Antonym: miss, overlook, ignore