

Word Learning Strategy: Gradable Antonyms

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning.

There are two types of antonyms.

One type is **Complementary (Polar) Antonyms**. Complementary antonyms are polar opposite. It doesn't fit on a scale and has no gradations.

Examples:

dead and alive

last and first

The second type is **Gradable Antonyms**. Gradable antonyms are word pairs that lie on a continuum of opposite endings.

Examples:

cold and hot

good and bad

Talking about how words compare, including opposites, help students learn how words work and increase the understanding of the words.

Vocabulary word is feverish.

1. Teacher asks students for the synonyms and antonyms of the word.



2. Class/group arranges the words on a scale to demonstrate the scaffolded intensity of the words.
3. Group discusses scenarios or things where each word on the scale would be most precisely used.