

Lesson 14

Using a Thesaurus

CCSS

L.7.4.c: Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., . . . thesauruses) both print and digital, to [find a word and] determine or clarify its precise meaning . . .



Introduction

You can use a **thesaurus** to find synonyms and antonyms for words.

When a word has more than one meaning, each definition is numbered.

Sometimes there is a sample sentence.

Some words have more than one pronunciation and part of speech.

concern (kən sūrn') *v.* **1.** to be of significance or importance to: *Staying healthy concerns all of us.* **interest, involve, pertain, influence** **2.** to worry someone: *Your rash concerns me.* **distress, disturb, trouble, worry, disquiet** *n.* **3.** a matter or issue: *My financial affairs are my private concern.* **affair, consideration, matter, issue** **4.** a worry: *A lingering cough is a concern.* **worry, care, anxiety** **5.** a business: *The bakery is a concern that has operated for twenty years.* **business, enterprise, company, firm**

fragment (frăg' mənt) *n.* **1.** a bit of something: *This fragment of pottery is from your vase.* **bit, chip, shred, sliver, segment** **Antonyms:** whole, total
fragment (frăg mənt') *v.* **2.** to break into small pieces: *The loud noise fragmented the glass.* **break, shatter, smash** **Antonyms:** unite, combine, mend



Guided Practice

Use the passage and the thesaurus entries to answer numbers 1–5.

Hint

If you ever want to replace a word with a synonym, consider the age and background of your audience. How familiar will your audience be with the word you choose?

Air pollution concerns people because of its negative impact on health and the environment. Air pollution contains particulates, which are tiny fragments of solids or liquids that are suspended in air.

1 Which words are synonyms of *concerns* as it is used in the passage?

2 Which definition matches *concerns* as it is used in the passage?

3 Which words are synonyms of *fragments* as it is used in the passage?

4 Which words are antonyms of *fragments* as it is used in the passage?

5 Which synonym would be the best choice to replace *fragments* if you were writing for very young children? _____



For numbers 1 and 2, read the sentence. Then use the thesaurus entry to answer the questions.

contribute (kən trīb'yōōt) v. 1. to give something, such as time or money, to a cause: *Ryan contributed five dollars to the fundraiser.* **donate, give, grant, bestow** Antonyms: *take, receive* 2. to help make something happen, to be a cause of something: *Your good wishes contributed to my happiness.* **add, aid, help, assist, support, influence** Antonyms: *curb, impede, detract*

1 The burning of fossil fuels such as fuel oil, gasoline, and natural gas contributes significantly to air pollution.

Which is an antonym for contributes as it is used above?

- A** grants
- B** detracts
- C** adds
- D** assists

2 Volunteer organizations contribute time and energy to promoting methods of reducing pollution.

Which is a synonym for contribute as it is used above?

- A** donate
- B** aid
- C** impede
- D** influence

Answer Form

- 1 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 2 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 3 (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 4 (A) (B) (C) (D)

Number Correct / 4

For numbers 3 and 4, read the sentence. Then use the thesaurus entry to answer the questions.

appropriate (ə prō'prē'īt) adj. 1. suitable: *Sandals are appropriate shoes on a hot day.* **correct, suitable** Antonyms: *inappropriate, unsuitable* **appropriate** (ə prō'prē'āt') v. 2. to use something for a purpose: *Will the city appropriate funds for a new pool?* **allocate, assign** Antonym: *withhold* 3. to take something for one's own use, often without asking the owner's permission: *Gwen appropriated her sister's bike for the day.* **take, commandeer, seize**

3 The use of appropriate control devices can reduce the level of emissions.

Which is a synonym for appropriate as it is used above?

- A** withheld
- B** suitable
- C** commandeered
- D** seized

4 Should governments appropriate funds to combat pollution?

Which is an antonym for appropriate as it is used above?

- A** take
- B** correct
- C** withhold
- D** allocate