

Use Multiple Vocabulary Strategies

Using **antonyms**, using a **thesaurus**, and recognizing **homophones** are strategies that can help you understand unfamiliar words in a text.

Looking for **antonyms** for an unfamiliar word can help you figure out the meaning of the word. An antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning of another word. Sometimes an author provides an antonym for a word in the nearby text. In the example below, the antonym for *hideous* is *beautiful*.

He expected the place to be **hideous**, but it was **beautiful**.

You may use a **thesaurus** to understand unfamiliar words. A thesaurus is a reference book that lists words in alphabetical order and provides synonyms for those words. Sometimes a thesaurus also lists antonyms for a word. Use a thesaurus to look up synonyms for an unfamiliar word in a sentence. Then replace the word in the sentence with the synonym to gain an understanding of the word.

Because **homophones** are words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings, you can use context clues to figure out which homophone is being used in a sentence. In the example below, the context clues in the sentence show that the word *cheap*, not the homophone *cheep*, best fits the meaning of the sentence.

The price of the suit was **cheap**, but the suit was made of fine materials.



Use a thesaurus to find synonyms for each **bold** homophone. Write your synonyms in the charts below. Replace the homophone in the phrase with a synonym. Then write a sentence with the phrase and use an antonym to show the meaning of the phrase.

1. the **wail** of the wind

Homophone	Synonym
wail	



Sentence with the synonym and antonym:

2. to **waive** the fee

Homophone	Synonym
waive	

Sentence with the synonym and antonym:

3. a **faint** light

Homophone	Synonym
faint	

Sentence with the synonym and antonym:
