

Exercise 3: Synonyms and Antonyms

Use the synonyms and antonyms in the word list to fill in the blanks except where you see an X.

	Synonyms	Antonyms	Word List	
1. averse	_____	_____	align	homogeneous
2. square	_____	_____	choke	intention
3. impulse	_____	X	differ	open up
4. dispose	_____	_____	discard	opposed
5. staunch	_____	_____	disease	rank
6. fetid	_____	_____	diverse	retain
7. assorted	_____	_____	drive	similar
8. blight	_____	_____	fragrant	sympathetic
9. kindred	_____	_____	health	unrelated
10. design	_____	X		

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

From the Master Words, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided at the right.

- The potato ...?... caused mass starvation in Ireland in the 1840s. _____
- Lily worked hard to ...?... her actions with her beliefs. _____
- The rotten vegetables created a ...?... odor in the refrigerator. _____
- The box of ...?... crayons was perfect for drawing a rainbow. _____
- The ...?... of the river increased after the heavy rain. _____
- The architect's ...?... would create a bright, airy space. _____
- The nurse applied pressure to ...?... the flow of blood from the wound. _____
- It is important to ...?... of energy-efficient light bulbs properly. _____
- Matthew is usually ...?... to trying new foods but decided to be adventurous while on vacation in Europe. _____
- My mother says the members of her book club are true ...?... spirits. _____

... Exercise 5: Shades of Meaning

The bold words in the chart below are Master Words. Beneath each is a synonym. Although their denotations (dictionary definitions) are nearly the same, the Master Word and its synonym have different shades of meaning, or connotations. Based on the context, decide whether a Master Word or its synonym would better complete each sentence. Use a dictionary if necessary. (Note: One bold word is in the family of the Master Word.)

averse	blight	design
reluctant	damage	intention

- The fungus caused a ...?... that destroyed many of the roses in the garden. _____
- The city planner's ...?... showed great attention to the needs of pedestrians. _____
- Nick had the ...?... to run every morning before school. _____
- Sara was ...?... to go to the dance but finally gave in to pressure to attend. _____
- The storm caused ...?... when it brought down many tree limbs. _____
- Noah was ...?... to all forms of exercise and preferred to play video games. _____

... Exercise 6: Puns and Verbal Irony

A *pun* is a play on words, usually involving words or phrases that sound alike but have different meanings. In the poem "Design," Robert Frost uses puns to suggest deeper meanings. For example, in line five, the word *morning* might be a pun on *mourning*. The use of such puns contributes to the verbal irony of the poem. *Verbal irony* is a figure of speech in which the meaning is the opposite of what is said. When Frost says the heal-all flower is "innocent" in line ten, is he actually suggesting that it is just the opposite?

In the chart below, identify the possible puns for the words in the first column and explain their meaning. Use a dictionary if necessary. An example has been done for you.

Words from Poem	Possible Pun and Meaning
holding up (line 2)	"Holding up" can mean supporting, displaying, or robbing.
piece (line 3)	
right (line 5)	
kite (line 8)	
appall (line 13) (Hint: split into two words)	

Write About It: A Poem's Meaning

Review the examples of puns and verbal irony from Exercise 6. Then **write a paraphrase** of Frost's poem "Design" to convey what the poem means in your own words. Pay attention to the connotations of the words that Frost uses and demonstrate your understanding of the Master Words used in the poem, especially the word *design* used in the title and the closing lines.