

Full Name:

Semantics: Word Meanings

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1. Find a pair of absolute synonyms in a language that you speak.
2. Decide if the words in the following sets are absolute or near synonyms. How do you decide? What type of criteria have you used?

(1) *tell, say, talk*

(2) *sad, unhappy*

3. Classify the following pairs of opposites

(3) *temporary/permanent*

(4) *red/green*

(5) *strong/weak*

(6) *open/shut*

(7) *monarch/subject*

(8) *advance/retreat*

(9) *buyer/seller*

(10) *clean/dirty*

(11) *present/absent*

(12) *yesterday/today*

4. Classify the following related words

(13) *begin/start*

(14) *class/education*

(15) *slice/pie*

(16) *sand/grain*

(17) *tree/forest*

(18) *bee/swarm*

(19) *palette/painting*

(20) *segment/orange*

(21) *scalpel/surgery*

(22) *vehicle/bicycle*

(23) *smart/intelligent*

5. Below are some nouns ending in *-er* and *-or*. Using your intuition about their meanings, discuss their status as agentive nouns. In particular, are they derivable by regular rule or would they need to be listed in the lexicon?

teacher, author, blazer, blinker, choker, loser, debtor, loner, mentor, reactor, roller, lecturer

Check your decisions against a dictionary's entries.

6. Give examples of agentive suffixes in other languages you speak