



Same Spark or Opposite Spark?

Look at the glowing helper word. Does it lead to a clue that means the same, or the opposite? Tick one spark.



Same Spark or, means, also, and



Opposite Spark but, not

1

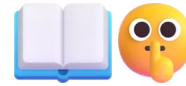
Grandpa's soup was **scalding**, **or** very, very hot.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

2

The library was **not** noisy. It was **hushed**.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

3

To **mend** **means** to fix something that is broken.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

4

The path was **narrow**, **but** the road was very wide.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

5

Lina was **thrilled**. She was **also** jumping up and down with joy.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

6

The old bread was **stale**, **but** the new loaf was soft and fresh.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

7

The park was **vast** **and** so big that we got lost.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

8

My dog is **not** lazy. He is **energetic**.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

9

A **burrow** **means** a hole where an animal lives.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark

10

The music was **faint**, **but** the drums next door were very loud.



☐ Same Spark ☐ Opposite Spark



Follow the Clue Sparks

Read the story. For each tricky word, underline the helper word that leads to the clue. Then write what the tricky word means.



Twyla's glow trick: underline the helper word, just like Twyla's glowing tail.

GLOW BOOK

Ama Crosses the Bay

On Saturday, Ama and Auntie Efua rode a ferry to Gull Island. The morning was gloomy, but by lunchtime the sky was bright and blue. The dock was bustling and full of busy people with bags and bikes.

A horn tooted, and the ferry began to glide across the bay. To glide means to move along smoothly. The wet deck was slick, or slippery, so Ama held the rail.

A cargo ship sailed past them. It was massive. It was also as long as a whole street!

Near the island stood a lighthouse. It was not new at all. It was ancient, with cracked white paint. Auntie Efua said it was more than one hundred years old.

On the island, they ate mango slices on the warm sand.

1

What does **slick** mean? Find the sentence with **slick**. Underline its helper word.

Slick means _____.

Choose from: slippery · sticky · sunny

2

What does **glide** mean? Underline the helper word that tells us.

Glide means _____.

Choose from: to stop · to move along smoothly · to bump up and down

3

What does **bustling** mean? Find the sentence with **bustling**. Underline its helper word.

Bustling means _____.

Choose from: busy and crowded · empty and still · wet and cold

4

What does **massive** mean? Read the next sentence. Underline its helper word.

Massive means _____.

Choose from: very fast · very loud · very big

5

What does **ancient** mean? Find the helper word that flips the meaning.

Ancient means _____.

Choose from: very old · brand new · very tall



Blurt says: "Gloomy means bright and sunny! I see the word bright right there!"

Hmm. Show me where it says that! Is Blurt right?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6

What does **gloomy** mean? Underline the helper word that flips the meaning.

Gloomy means _____.

Choose from: bright and sunny · dark and gray · hot and dry



Word to Meaning

Read each sentence. Use the clues to work out the tricky word. Draw a line to its meaning.



Sentences



Meanings

Sara felt **parched** after the long hike, so she drank three cups of water.



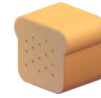
confused

The **blizzard** covered the town in deep snow, and strong winds howled.



jumped on suddenly

Jun was **baffled** by the riddle. He scratched his head and could not solve it.



very tasty

The cat **pounced**, jumping quickly onto the toy mouse.



very thirsty

The bread was **scrumptious**, and everyone asked for another slice.

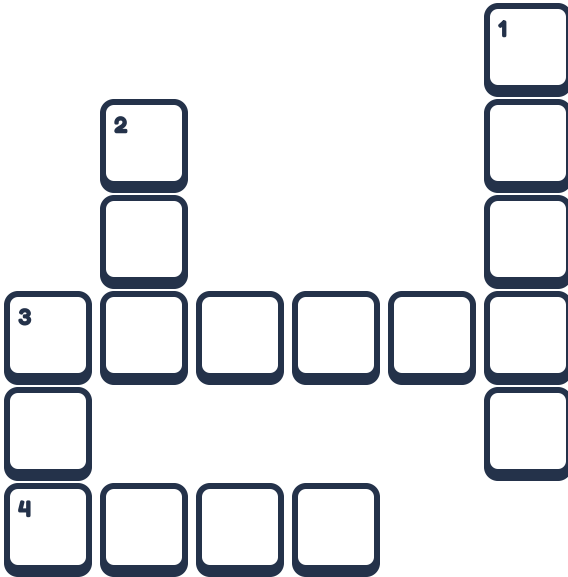


a big snowstorm



Clue Spark Crossword

Read each clue. Follow the helper word to the clue, then write the missing word. One letter goes in each box.



1 down · 5 letters

The clown was comical and so funny that we had to ____.



2 down · 3 letters

The cocoa was steaming, or very ____.



3 across · 6 letters

Grandma is mighty. She is also very ____, and she can lift a heavy box.



3 down · 3 letters

Leo was glum. He was also very ____ because his toy broke.



4 across · 4 letters

The night was not bright at all. It was pitch-black, or very ____.

Word bank: dark · hot · laugh · sad · strong



Spark Hunt

Read each clue. Follow the helper word, write the missing word in the boxes, then find it in the grid and color it in. Words go across → or down ↓ only.



K	G	S	K	H	G	D	J
M	B	I	W	G	B	L	R
G	D	N	L	X	W	G	U
L	Q	G	K	Z	W	Q	N
W	P	F	Q	L	X	G	X
X	H	M	J	H	B	I	G
Q	L	Q	S	L	O	W	X
L	L	V	G	Z	K	K	J



The whale was colossal, or very ____.



To sprint means to ____ as fast as you can.



The snail was sluggish. It was also very ____.



The bird began to warble, or ____ a sweet song.

Stuck? Here are the words, upside down: big · run · slow · sing



The Glow Test

For each tricky word from the story, tick its meaning. Then tick a synonym and an antonym.



1

The morning was **gloomy**, **but** by lunchtime the sky was bright and blue.

Step 1. What does gloomy mean?

- ☐  dark and gray ☐  bright and blue

Step 2. Which word is a synonym for gloomy?

- ☐  happy ☐  dark ☐  hot

Step 3. Which word is an antonym for gloomy?

- ☐  bright ☐  gray ☐  rainy

Last step. How sure are you?  ☐  ☐  ☐

2

The dock was **bustling** **and** full of busy people with bags and bikes.

Step 1. What does bustling mean?

- ☐  busy and crowded ☐  empty and still

Step 2. Which word is a synonym for bustling?

- ☐  sleepy ☐  busy ☐  wet

Step 3. Which word is an antonym for bustling?

- ☐  crowded ☐  noisy ☐  quiet

Last step. How sure are you?  ☐  ☐  ☐

3

It was **not** new at all. It was **ancient**, with cracked white paint.

Step 1. What does ancient mean?

- ☐  brand new ☐  very old

Step 2. Which word is a synonym for ancient?

- ☐  old ☐  tiny ☐  shiny

Step 3. Which word is an antonym for ancient?

- ☐  cracked ☐  new ☐  white

Last step. How sure are you?  ☐  ☐  ☐

4

It was **massive**. It was **also** as long as a whole street!

Step 1. What does massive mean?

- ☐  very big ☐  very fast

Step 2. Which word is a synonym for massive?

- ☐  giant ☐  slow ☐  loud

Step 3. Which word is an antonym for massive?

- ☐  long ☐  heavy ☐  tiny

Last step. How sure are you?  ☐  ☐  ☐



The Spark Trail

A game for 2 to 4 players. You need a die (or number cards 1 to 6) and a coin or button for each player.



20  finish	19  Blurt: back to 12	18  question card	17	16
11  glow beam up to 17	12	13	14  question card	15  Blurt: back to 8
10  question card	9	8	7  glow beam up to 13	6
1 start	2	3  glow beam up to 9	4	5  question card

How to play: Roll and move. Land on ,  or ? Another player reads you a question card.
 Answer right to fly up the glow beam.  Answer right to fly past Blurt, or go back. 
 Answer right to roll again. First to the badge wins!



Question Cards

Cut out the cards and put them face down in a pile. The answer is printed upside down at the bottom.



Question 1

Which helper word is a Same Spark?

⚖️ or ⚖️ but ⚖️ not

Answer: or

Question 2

Which helper word is an Opposite Spark?

⚖️ also ⚖️ but ⚖️ means

Answer: but

Question 3

Context is information in a sentence or passage that helps us understand a what?

💬 word 🖼️ picture 🎵 song

Answer: word

Question 4

Read: The bag was hefty, or very heavy. What does hefty mean?

📦 very heavy 🍃 very soft 💧 very wet

Answer: very heavy

Question 5

Read: The kitten was not brave. It was skittish, and it ran from every sound. What does skittish mean?

😱 easily scared 🦧 very brave 😴 very sleepy

Answer: easily scared

Question 6

You are stuck on a word. What do you do first?

📖 Read the whole sentence. ✖ Skip the word.
? Guess any word.

Answer: Read the whole sentence.

Question 7

Read: A cub means a baby bear. What is a cub?

🐻 a baby bear 🍵 a big cup 📦 a toy box

Answer: a baby bear

Question 8

Finish the chant. Look left, look right, the clues what the way?

💡 light 🧱 block 🐹 hide

Answer: light

Question 9

Read: Zara was overjoyed, and she laughed and danced around the room. What does overjoyed mean?

😄 very happy 😡 very angry 😴 very tired

Answer: very happy

Question 10

Which word is an antonym for gloomy?

🌃 dark ☀ bright ☁ gray

Answer: bright



Clue Spark Reader!



followed every clue spark and earned the
Clue Spark Badge

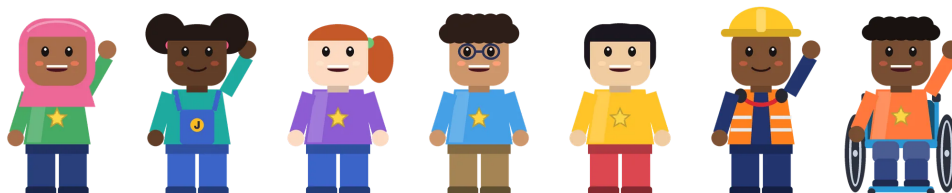
Context is information in a sentence or passage that helps us understand a word. Read the whole sentence, find the clue sparks, guess the meaning, then swap it in to check. Same Sparks (or, means, also, and) lead to words that mean the same. Opposite Sparks (but, not) lead to the opposite.

Our chant: Stuck on a word? Don't fly away! Look left, look right,
the clues light the way!

How do context clues feel now? Color one.

☐ I need more practice ☐ I am getting there ☐ I can teach it!

Date _____ Signed _____



Answer Key

1. Same Spark or Opposite Spark?

1. Same Spark. The helper word or leads to the same meaning. Scalding means very, very hot.
2. Opposite Spark. The helper word not flips the meaning. Hushed is the opposite of noisy. It means very quiet.
3. Same Spark. The helper word means tells us right away. Mend means to fix.
4. Opposite Spark. The helper word but flips the meaning. Narrow is the opposite of wide.
5. Same Spark. The helper word also leads to the same meaning. Thrilled means very excited and happy.
6. Opposite Spark. The helper word but flips the meaning. Stale is the opposite of fresh.
7. Same Spark. The helper word and leads to the same meaning. Vast means very big.
8. Opposite Spark. The helper word not flips the meaning. Energetic is the opposite of lazy. It means full of energy.
9. Same Spark. The helper word means tells us right away. A burrow is an animal's hole.
10. Opposite Spark. The helper word but flips the meaning. Faint is the opposite of loud. It means hard to hear.

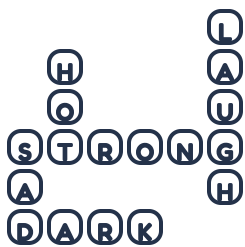
2. Follow the Clue Sparks

1. Slick means SLIPPERY. (Proof: the word or)
2. Glide means TO MOVE ALONG SMOOTHLY. (Proof: the word means)
3. Bustling means BUSY AND CROWDED. (Proof: the word and)
4. Massive means VERY BIG. (Proof: the word also)
5. Ancient means VERY OLD. (Proof: the word not)
6. Gloomy means DARK AND GRAY. (Proof: the word but) Blurt is not right.

3. Word to Meaning

1. Parched means very thirsty. She drank three cups of water.
2. A blizzard is a big snowstorm. Deep snow and strong winds are the clues.
3. Baffled means confused. He could not solve it.
4. Pounced means jumped on suddenly. Jumping quickly is the clue.
5. Scrumptious means very tasty. Everyone wanted more.

4. Clue Spark Crossword



- 1 down: laugh, 2 down: hot, 3 across: strong, 3 down: sad, 4 across: dark

5. Spark Hunt

big, run, slow, sing



6. The Glow Test

1. dark and gray / dark / bright
2. busy and crowded / busy / quiet
3. very old / old / new
4. very big / giant / tiny

7. The Spark Trail question cards

1. or. Or is a Same Spark. It leads to a clue that means the same.
2. but. But is an Opposite Spark. It flips the meaning.
3. word. Context is information in a sentence or passage that helps us understand a word.
4. very heavy. The helper word or leads to the clue: very heavy.
5. easily scared. Not brave, and it ran from every sound. Skittish means easily scared.
6. Read the whole sentence. First, read the whole sentence. Then find the clue sparks, guess the meaning, and swap it in to check.
7. a baby bear. The helper word means tells us right away.
8. light. Look left, look right, the clues light the way!
9. very happy. She laughed and danced. Overjoyed means very happy.
10. bright. Gloomy means dark and gray. Bright is the opposite.

The last step (how sure?) has no right answer. A child who is right but "not sure" needs one more practice round. A child who is wrong but "very sure" has a mix-up worth talking about.

Look left, look right, the clues light the way!
Same Sparks: or, means, also, and. Opposite Sparks: but, not. The Glow Test: say the meaning, then give a synonym and an antonym.