

Types of opposites: noun pairs

Instructions

Hide

1. Many word pairs represent opposing meanings and can be thought of as points on opposing sides of a semantic dimension. Sometimes it is easy to identify the dimension of opposition, for example, tall and short represent opposing points in the dimension of height. In other instances it is less easy to characterize this dimension, for example for farm–factory. Answer multiple choice questions about contrasting English words and help us better understand opposites. Your input is much appreciated.
2. Please return/skip HIT if you do not know the meaning of any of the target words.
3. Attempt HITs only if you are a native speaker of English, or very fluent in English.
4. Certain “check questions will be used to make sure the annotation is responsible and reasonable. Assignments that fail these tests will be rejected.
5. Your responses are confidential. Any publications based on these responses will not include your specific responses, but rather aggregate information from many individuals. We will not ask any information that can be used to identify who you are.

levity × gravity

Q1. Which set of words is most related to the word pair levity:gravity? (required)

- insufficiency, deficiency, sufficiency, deficit
- attraction, solemnity, earnestness, seriousness
- firmness, resolution, uncertainty, doubt
- kinship, relationship, relation, sympathy

Q2. Do levity and gravity have some contrast in meaning? (required)

- yes
- no

For example, up–down, lukewarm–cold, teacher–student, attack–defend, all have at least some degree of contrast in meaning. On the other hand, clown–down, chilly–cold, teacher–doctor, and

attack-rush DO NOT have contrasting meanings.

Q3. Some contrasting words are paired together so often that given one we naturally think of the other. If one of the words in such a pair were replaced with another word of almost the same meaning, it would sound odd to us. Are levity:gravity such a pair? (required)

- yes
- no

Examples for “yes”: tall-short, attack-defend, honest-dishonest, happy-sad. Examples for “no”: tall-stocky, attack-protect, honest-liar, happy-morbid.

Q4. Complete this sentence with one word or a short phrase: levity and gravity are both types of (required)

For example, yellow and red are both colors. If there is no reasonable response to this question, then type in “none”.

Q5. Do levity and gravity represent two ends or extremes? (required)

- yes
- no

Examples for “yes”: top-bottom, basement-attic, always-never, all-none, start-finish. Examples for “no”: hot-cold (boiling refers to more warmth than hot and freezing refers to less warmth than cold), teacher-student (there is no such thing as more or less teacher and more or less student), always-sometimes (never is fewer times than sometimes), honest-dishonest (if one is dishonest, another person may be even more dishonest).

Q6. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of levity, does it follow that the attribute is not a defining characteristic of gravity, and vice versa? In other words, is it true that there is no essential characteristic that is common to both levity and gravity? (required)

- yes
- no

Examples for “yes”: honesty-dishonesty, honest-cheater, vigilance-carelessness. Examples for “no”: honesty-truthfulness, sadness-moroseness, vigilance-carefulness.

Q7. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of levity, does it follow that the absence of that attribute is a defining characteristic of levity, and vice versa? In other words, is it true for every characteristic that is a defining property of the one, that the absence of that characteristic is a defining property of the other. (required)

- yes

no

Examples for “yes”: clarity–murkiness, life–death, vigilance–carelessness, integrity–dishonesty. Examples for “no”: clarity–noise, life–soul, vigilance–honesty, vigilance–dishonesty (absence of vigilance is not a defining characteristic of dishonesty).

Q8. In an explanation of the word levity, would it be natural to see the word gravity, and in an explanation of the word gravity, would it be natural to see the word levity? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: predator–prey, teacher–student, hammer–nail. Examples for “no”: teacher–headmaster, predator–blood (it will be unusual to see predator in an explanation of blood), hammer–wood.

Comments.

optional

levity x solemnity

Q1. Which set of words is most related to the word pair levity:solemnity? (required)

representation, contention, competition, engagement

dispersion, arrangement, diaspora, placement

gravity, playfulness, earnestness, seriousness

suspect, litigant, accused, respondent

Q2. Do levity and solemnity have some contrast in meaning? (required)

yes

no

For example, up–down, lukewarm–cold, teacher–student, attack–defend, all have at least some degree of contrast in meaning. On the other hand, clown–down, chilly–cold, teacher–doctor, and attack–rush DO NOT have contrasting meanings.

Q3. Some contrasting words are paired together so often that given one we naturally think of the other. If one of the words in such a pair were replaced with another word of almost the same meaning, it would sound odd to us. Are levity:solemnity such a pair? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: tall–short, attack–defend, honest–dishonest, happy–sad. Examples for “no”: tall–stocky, attack–protect, honest–liar, happy–morbid.

Q4. Complete this sentence with one word or a short phrase: levity and solemnity are both types of (required)

For example, yellow and red are both colors. If there is no reasonable response to this question, then type in “none”.

Q5. Do levity and solemnity represent two ends or extremes? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: top–bottom, basement–attic, always–never, all–none, start–finish. Examples for “no”: hot–cold (boiling refers to more warmth than hot and freezing refers to less warmth than cold), teacher–student (there is no such thing as more or less teacher and more or less student), always–sometimes (never is fewer times than sometimes), honest–dishonest (if one is dishonest, another person may be even more dishonest).

Q6. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of levity, does it follow that the attribute is not a defining characteristic of solemnity, and vice versa? In other words, is it true that there is no essential characteristic that is common to both levity and solemnity? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: honesty–dishonesty, honest–cheater, vigilance–carelessness. Examples for “no”: honesty–truthfulness, sadness–moroseness, vigilance–carefulness.

Q7. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of levity, does it follow that the absence of that attribute is a defining characteristic of levity, and vice versa? In other words, is it true for every characteristic that is a defining property of the one, that the absence of that characteristic is a defining property of the other. (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: clarity–murkiness, life–death, vigilance–carelessness, integrity–dishonesty. Examples for “no”: clarity–noise, life–soul, vigilance–honesty, vigilance–dishonesty (absence of vigilance is not a defining characteristic of dishonesty).

Q8. In an explanation of the word levity, would it be natural to see the word solemnity, and in an explanation of the word solemnity, would it be natural to see the word levity? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: predator–prey, teacher–student, hammer–nail. Examples for “no”: teacher–headmaster, predator–blood (it will be unusual to see predator in an explanation of blood), hammer–wood.

Comments.

optional

agitation × calmness

Q1. Which set of words is most related to the word pair agitation:calmness? (required)

truth, fidelity, right, exact

esteem, disbelieve, distrust, mistrust

anxiety, condition, enchantment, spell

benign, kind, generosity, softness

Q2. Do agitation and calmness have some contrast in meaning? (required)

yes

no

For example, up–down, lukewarm–cold, teacher–student, attack–defend, all have at least some degree of contrast in meaning. On the other hand, clown–down, chilly–cold, teacher–doctor, and attack–rush DO NOT have contrasting meanings.

Q3. Some contrasting words are paired together so often that given one we naturally think of the other. If one of the words in such a pair were replaced with another word of almost the same meaning, it would sound odd to us. Are agitation:calmness such a pair? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: tall–short, attack–defend, honest–dishonest, happy–sad. Examples for “no”: tall–stocky, attack–protect, honest–liar, happy–morbid.

Q4. Complete this sentence with one word or a short phrase: agitation and calmness are both types of (required)

For example, yellow and red are both colors. If there is no reasonable response to this question, then type in “none”.

Q5. Do agitation and calmness represent two ends or extremes? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: top–bottom, basement–attic, always–never, all–none, start–finish. Examples for “no”: hot–cold (boiling refers to more warmth than hot and freezing refers to less warmth than cold), teacher–student (there is no such thing as more or less teacher and more or less student), always–sometimes (never is fewer times than sometimes), honest–dishonest (if one is dishonest, another person may be even more dishonest).

Q6. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of agitation, does it follow that the attribute is not a defining characteristic of calmness, and vice versa? In other words, is it true that there is no essential characteristic that is common to both agitation and calmness? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: honesty–dishonesty, honest–cheater, vigilance–carelessness. Examples for “no”: honesty–truthfulness, sadness–moroseness, vigilance–carefulness.

Q7. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of agitation, does it follow that the absence of that attribute is a defining characteristic of agitation, and vice versa? In other words, is it true for every characteristic that is a defining property of the one, that the absence of that characteristic is a defining property of the other. (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: clarity–murkiness, life–death, vigilance–carelessness, integrity–dishonesty. Examples for “no”: clarity–noise, life–soul, vigilance–honesty, vigilance–dishonesty (absence of vigilance is not a defining characteristic of dishonesty).

Q8. In an explanation of the word agitation, would it be natural to see the word calmness, and in an explanation of the word calmness, would it be natural to see the word agitation? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: predator–prey, teacher–student, hammer–nail. Examples for “no”: teacher–headmaster, predator–blood (it will be unusual to see predator in an explanation of blood), hammer–wood.

Comments.

optional

felicity × unhappiness

Q1. Which set of words is most related to the word pair felicity:unhappiness? (required)

- attraction, ascent, rise, ascension
- development, diminution, reduction, increase
- sadness, gratification, satisfaction, rapture
- compliance, heresy, observance, orthodoxy

Q2. Do felicity and unhappiness have some contrast in meaning? (required)

- yes
- no

For example, up-down, lukewarm-cold, teacher-student, attack-defend, all have at least some degree of contrast in meaning. On the other hand, clown-down, chilly-cold, teacher-doctor, and attack-rush DO NOT have contrasting meanings.

Q3. Some contrasting words are paired together so often that given one we naturally think of the other. If one of the words in such a pair were replaced with another word of almost the same meaning, it would sound odd to us. Are felicity:unhappiness such a pair? (required)

- yes
- no

Examples for “yes”: tall-short, attack-defend, honest-dishonest, happy-sad. Examples for “no”: tall-stocky, attack-protect, honest-liar, happy-morbid.

Q4. Complete this sentence with one word or a short phrase: felicity and unhappiness are both types of (required)

For example, yellow and red are both colors. If there is no reasonable response to this question, then type in “none”.

Q5. Do felicity and unhappiness represent two ends or extremes? (required)

- yes
- no

Examples for “yes”: top-bottom, basement-attic, always-never, all-none, start-finish. Examples for “no”: hot-cold (boiling refers to more warmth than hot and freezing refers to less warmth than cold), teacher-student (there is no such thing as more or less teacher and more or less student), always-sometimes (never is fewer times than sometimes), honest-dishonest (if one is dishonest, another person may be even more dishonest).

Q6. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of felicity, does it follow that the attribute is not a defining characteristic of unhappiness, and vice versa? In other words, is it true that there is no essential characteristic that is common to both felicity and unhappiness? (required)

yes

no

Examples for "yes": honesty-dishonesty, honest-cheater, vigilance-carelessness. Examples for "no": honesty-truthfulness, sadness-moroseness, vigilance-carefulness.

Q7. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of felicity, does it follow that the absence of that attribute is a defining characteristic of felicity, and vice versa? In other words, is it true for every characteristic that is a defining property of the one, that the absence of that characteristic is a defining property of the other. (required)

yes

no

Examples for "yes": clarity-murkiness, life-death, vigilance-carelessness, integrity-dishonesty. Examples for "no": clarity-noise, life-soul, vigilance-honesty, vigilance-dishonesty (absence of vigilance is not a defining characteristic of dishonesty).

Q8. In an explanation of the word felicity, would it be natural to see the word unhappiness, and in an explanation of the word unhappiness, would it be natural to see the word felicity? (required)

yes

no

Examples for "yes": predator-prey, teacher-student, hammer-nail. Examples for "no": teacher-headmaster, predator-blood (it will be unusual to see predator in an explanation of blood), hammer-wood.

Comments.

optional

fauna x flora

Q1. Which set of words is most related to the word pair fauna:flora? (required)

beast, brute, animal, creature

truth, substance, misstatement, thing

viscosity, fusion, gibberish, hold

clearness, perceptible, obvious, soul

Q2. Do fauna and flora have some contrast in meaning? (required)

yes

no

For example, up-down, lukewarm-cold, teacher-student, attack-defend, all have at least some degree of contrast in meaning. On the other hand, clown-down, chilly-cold, teacher-doctor, and attack-rush DO NOT have contrasting meanings.

Q3. Some contrasting words are paired together so often that given one we naturally think of the other. If one of the words in such a pair were replaced with another word of almost the same meaning, it would sound odd to us. Are fauna:flora such a pair? (required)

yes

no

Examples for "yes": tall-short, attack-defend, honest-dishonest, happy-sad. Examples for "no": tall-stocky, attack-protect, honest-liar, happy-morbid.

Q4. Complete this sentence with one word or a short phrase: fauna and flora are both types of (required)

For example, yellow and red are both colors. If there is no reasonable response to this question, then type in "none".

Q5. Do fauna and flora represent two ends or extremes? (required)

yes

no

Examples for "yes": top-bottom, basement-attic, always-never, all-none, start-finish. Examples for "no": hot-cold (boiling refers to more warmth than hot and freezing refers to less warmth than cold), teacher-student (there is no such thing as more or less teacher and more or less student), always-sometimes (never is fewer times than sometimes), honest-dishonest (if one is dishonest, another person may be even more dishonest).

Q6. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of fauna, does it follow that the attribute is not a defining characteristic of flora, and vice versa? In other words, is it true that there is no essential characteristic that is common to both fauna and flora? (required)

yes

no

Examples for "yes": honesty-dishonesty, honest-cheater, vigilance-carelessness. Examples for "no": honesty-truthfulness, sadness-moroseness, vigilance-carefulness.

Q7. If a certain attribute is a defining characteristic of fauna, does it follow that the absence of that attribute is a defining characteristic of fauna, and vice versa? In other words, is it true for every characteristic that is a defining property of the one, that the absence of that characteristic is a defining property of the other. (required)

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Examples for “yes”: clarity–murkiness, life–death, vigilance–carelessness, integrity–dishonesty. Examples for “no”: clarity–noise, life–soul, vigilance–honesty, vigilance–dishonesty (absence of vigilance is not a defining characteristic of dishonesty).

Q8. In an explanation of the word fauna, would it be natural to see the word flora, and in an explanation of the word flora, would it be natural to see the word fauna? (required)

yes

no

Examples for “yes”: predator–prey, teacher–student, hammer–nail. Examples for “no”: teacher–headmaster, predator–blood (it will be unusual to see predator in an explanation of blood), hammer–wood.

Comments.

optional

Test validation

(Test if required elements raise errors when they aren't filled in properly.)

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