

Spotting opposites

Challenge 8

You can make your writing more interesting and varied by using **opposites**. For example, instead of saying *it was a special house*, you could say *it was no ordinary house*.

- Match the words with their opposites. Check your answers by looking in the *Oxford English Thesaurus for Schools*; if you look up the verb **bore**, you can see that the opposite is **interest**.

Words in blue rounded rectangles: busy, pleasant, include, slightly, subsequent, separate, special, flexible, weaken, combine, rigid, previous, very, quiet, bore.

Words in orange rounded rectangles: disagreeable, exclude, strengthen, interest, ordinary, flexible.

A dotted line connects the word **interest** (orange) to the word **bore** (blue).

- Copy the words above on to cards and use them to play opposites games.

Opposites snap

- Divide the cards equally between the players.
- Players take it in turns to place a card in the middle with the word showing.
- If a card is placed on top of another card showing a word with the opposite meaning, the players shout 'snap!'. The first person to shout 'snap' wins all the cards in the middle.
- The game ends when one player has won all the cards.



Opposites memory game

- Lay the cards out face down so that you can't see the words.
- One player turns over two cards.
- If the cards are a pair of opposites, the player picks up those cards and is allowed another turn with the remaining cards.
- If the cards are not a pair of opposites, they are placed face down again and another player is allowed a turn.
- The winner is the player with the most cards when all the pairs have been matched up.
- **Tip:** Use your *Oxford English Thesaurus for Schools* to find more pairs of opposites and then make extra cards.