3.5 Antonyms and Contrast: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Workshop and the Kitchen

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Written specifically for this worksheet as a short reflective narrative extract for practising contrast as a rhetorical and structural device.

My grandfather's workshop stood at the bottom of the garden, a low brick building with a green door that never quite closed. Inside, everything had a place: chisels hung in size order along one wall, jam jars of screws stood labelled and dust-free on a shelf, and the single window let in a steady, even light that never seemed to change with the weather outside. He worked without hurry, sanding a table leg for twenty minutes at a time, stopping only to hold it up to that grey window light and turn it, slowly, in his enormous, patient hands.

Fifty feet away, through the back door and across the yard, the kitchen was a different country entirely. Three radios and two televisions competed for attention from separate rooms; my mother shouted timings up the stairs while my brother shouted louder replies back down; toast burned, unnoticed, under a grill nobody was watching. Where the workshop offered silence you could almost touch, the kitchen offered a noise that never fully stopped, only rose and fell, rose and fell, like a tide that had forgotten how to go out.

My grandfather built things that were made to last a hundred years; my family, it sometimes seemed to me, built nothing except noise, and even that only lasted until the next noise arrived to replace it. And yet I loved both rooms without contradiction, the way you can love winter and summer, or silence and music, without ever wanting to choose between them for good.

It was in the workshop, aged eleven, that I first understood what my grandfather meant when he said that a good joint holds two different pieces of wood together without either one losing its own grain. Stillness and hurry, I have since decided, can be joined in exactly the same way. I have spent every year since trying to build the joint myself: one foot in the workshop's patient quiet, the other in the kitchen's endless, overlapping noise, and somehow, most days, still standing.

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1 Which of these sentences is the clearest example of antithesis?

- ☐ A) The city was busy, and Maya loved the busyness of it.
- ☐ B) The old house creaked in the wind; the new house stood silent.
- ☐ C) The garden was full of flowers, birds and bees, humming and buzzing all day long.
- ☐ D) Although the weather was cold, we still went outside because we wanted fresh air.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

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2 Look again at the sentence: 'Where the workshop offered silence you could almost touch, the kitchen offered a noise that never fully stopped, only rose and fell, rose and fell, like a tide that had forgotten how to go out.' Identify the word that signals the contrast between the two halves of this sentence, and explain what job it does grammatically within the sentence.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Explain the effect created by the antithesis in the sentence: 'My grandfather built things that were made to last a hundred years; my family, it sometimes seemed to me, built nothing except noise.'

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Complete each sentence below with the most appropriate connective from the word bank. Each connective may be used once only; one connective in the bank is not needed.

Word bank
however
whereas
in contrast
yet
on the other hand

(a) My uncle collects clocks that no longer work, ___ my aunt only keeps things that are useful. **(1)**

(b) The old road was quiet at night. ___, the new bypass roared with traffic until dawn. **(1)**

(c) The forecast promised sunshine; ___ the rain never stopped. **(1)**

(d) Some people thrive on silence. Others, ___, need constant background noise to concentrate. **(1)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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5 Correct the punctuation error in this sentence: 'The workshop was silent however the kitchen was deafening.'

(Total for Question 5 is 2 marks)

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6 Combine these two simple sentences into a single sentence of antithesis, with two grammatically parallel halves joined by a semicolon: 'The old library was almost silent.' / 'The new library was full of notifications and chatter.'

(Total for Question 6 is 2 marks)

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Mark scheme · 3.5 Antonyms and Contrast: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

B) The old house creaked in the wind; the new house stood silent. **B1**

Answer: B

Question 2

identifies the word 'Where' **B1**

explains that 'Where' is being used to mean 'whereas', introducing the first half of the sentence so that it can be directly opposed by the second half describing the kitchen (oe) **B1**

Answer: 'Where' signals the contrast; it is used here to mean 'whereas', introducing the workshop's silence so that it can be directly opposed by the kitchen's noise in the second half of the sentence.

Question 3

identifies a plausible effect, e.g. the sentence contrasts lasting, careful craftsmanship with something fleeting and empty (oe) **B1**

develops this with reference to the sentence's form, e.g. the semicolon gives both halves equal grammatical weight, presenting the comparison as balanced and deliberate rather than a stray complaint (oe) **B1**

Answer: The antithesis contrasts the grandfather's lasting, careful craftsmanship with the family's fleeting, empty noise; the semicolon gives both halves equal grammatical weight, making the comparison feel balanced and deliberate rather than a casual complaint.

Question 4

(a) whereas **B1**

(a) Answer: whereas

(b) In contrast (also accept However or On the other hand, each connective used once only) **B1**

(b) Answer: In contrast

(c) yet **B1**

(c) Answer: yet

(d) on the other hand (also accept however or in contrast, each connective used once only) **B1**

(d) Answer: on the other hand

Question 5

identifies that 'however' cannot join two independent clauses with no punctuation at all, since it is a conjunctive adverb rather than a coordinating conjunction **B1**

correct rewrite with a semicolon (or full stop) before 'however' and a comma after it, cao **B1**

Answer: The workshop was silent; however, the kitchen was deafening.

Question 6

the two independent clauses are joined using a semicolon, with no coordinating conjunction added **B1**

the two halves are made grammatically parallel in structure, so the opposition reads as balanced, cao **B1**

Answer: The old library was almost silent; the new library was almost deafening.

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