

Subtle Synonyms Answer Key

1. **C. ethereal** - delicate or heavenly in beauty
2. **D. acrimonious** - bitter or sharp in tone
3. **A. incredulous** - showing disbelief
4. **C. vivid** - intensely clear and realistic
5. **B. luminous** - softly glowing
6. **D. tenacious** - persistent or determined
7. **B. effusive** - overflowing with emotion or enthusiasm
8. **A. obfuscate** - to make unclear or confuse

Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** Builds students' ability to recognize **nuances between rare synonyms** and apply vocabulary understanding in context.
- **Teaching Tips:**
 - Read sentences aloud and discuss why the incorrect options almost-but not quite-fit.
 - Highlight how tone, mood, and connotation change meaning.
- **Differentiation:**
 - *Support:* Offer simplified definitions for each rare word before starting.
 - *Challenge:* Have advanced students create their own "Synonym Sleuth" sentences using two rare words with subtle differences.
- **Engagement Idea:** Turn the worksheet into a "Word Detective Mystery." Students earn "clues" (points) for each correct choice and justify their reasoning aloud.
- **Extension Activity:** Encourage learners to find each correct word used in real literature or online articles and share the context in which it appears.