Spotting opposites

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*.

1. 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*.

   - disagreeable
   - rigid
   - previous
   - very
   - busy
   - pleasant
   - include
   - slightly
   - quiet
   - exclude
   - strengthen
   - interest
   - bore
   - subsequent
   - weaken
   - separate
   - special
   - ordinary
   - flexible
   - combine
   

2. 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.