Sound Trail Clues

Read word trails and track one-sound changes.

3.LF.7.d "In a series of words, apply phoneme chaining that changes only one sound at a time to show addition, deletion, substitution and resequencing of sounds from one word to the next."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words in each trail. Above each gap between words, write add, drop, change, or move to show what happened to a sound.

Nia's Word Fair

1. At the school word fair, Nia brought a stack of sound cards. Each card held a real word. Her first trail read at, cat, cap. Nia said each word out loud before she moved to the next card. She listened for the tiny sounds in order, not just the letters she could see. One small sound move would lead her to a new word.

2. Next, Nia made a garden trail: plant, pant, pan. She read it slowly while her friend Leo tapped one finger for each sound he heard. A plant can grow in a pot, and a pan can hold soil for seeds. Still, the cards were not a story about gardening. They were clues to how a spoken word can change one step at a time.

3. At the snack table, Leo wrote eat, tea, team on three more cards. He laughed because the words named things his friends could do or share. Nia read the first two cards with her ears, not just her eyes. Then she checked the last card, listening for what came after tea. She wanted to name each sound change before the fair ended.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What sound is added when at becomes cat?

2. What sound changes when cat becomes cap? Name both sounds.

3. What sound is dropped when plant becomes pant?

4. Which sound moves when eat becomes tea, and where does it go?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Make your own trail of five different real words that are not in the passage. Change only one sound at each step, using add, drop, change, and move once each. Label every step.

ANSWER KEY

Sound Trail Clues

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words in each trail. Above each gap between words, write add, drop, change, or move to show what happened to a sound. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What sound is added when at becomes cat?	**The /k/ sound is added at the beginning.**
2	What sound changes when cat becomes cap? Name both sounds.	**The final /t/ sound changes to /p/.**
3	What sound is dropped when plant becomes pant?	**The /l/ sound is dropped.**
4	Which sound moves when eat becomes tea, and where does it go?	**The /t/ sound moves from the end to the beginning.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

aim → may (move /m/ to the front) → maze (add /z/) → made (change /z/ to /d/) → aid (drop /m/)

Accept any five different real words not in the passage if each step uses the labeled sound action. Judge spoken sounds, not spelling changes.