Listen for Clues

Find word meanings in spoken conversations

6.VL.28 "Discover word meanings through active listening in various contexts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the spoken lines aloud quietly. Circle tentative, muffled, improvise, and verify, then underline the words each speaker says that help you figure out the meaning.

Maya's Audio Tour

1. Maya carried a recorder to the school theater to collect voices for a class audio tour. Behind the curtain, Leo whispered, "Our opening time is tentative. We said two o'clock, but the bus schedule might change, so don't print the posters yet." Maya asked, "Should I announce two o'clock on the tour?" "Not until the bus company calls back," Leo replied. A drumbeat started onstage, drowning out his next words. Maya replayed the recording and focused on what Leo had said before the noise.

2. In the courtyard, Maya interviewed a gardener named Ms. Chen. A gust blew Maya's scarf across the recorder. Maya played back the clip. "Your question sounds muffled," Ms. Chen said. "Could you move that cloth? I can hardly hear your words on the recording." Next, Maya visited the art room, where students were building a stand for their exhibit. "The wooden base cracked," said Tori. "We'll have to improvise. Bring those sturdy cardboard boxes, and we can stack them under the sign instead." Maya listened for the problem and the new plan.

3. Back in the theater, Maya played the clips for her partner, Sam. In one recording, a student claimed the show would start at three. "Before we share that time, let's verify it," Sam said. "Ask Leo and check the printed schedule. If they agree, we can use it." Maya called Leo, who said the bus company had confirmed two o'clock. The printed schedule also showed two. "Good thing we listened before posting the tour," Maya said. She cut the three o'clock claim from the recording.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does tentative mean when Leo describes the opening time? Which of Leo's words help you decide?

2. What does muffled mean when Ms. Chen describes the recording? Which words does she say that give you a clue?

3. What does improvise mean in Tori's plan? What does Tori say she will do?

4. What does verify mean in Sam's advice? Which two actions does Sam suggest?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four lines of dialogue in a setting not in the passage. Have one speaker use a challenging word not in the passage, and include spoken clues that help a listener figure it out without directly defining it.

ANSWER KEY

Listen for Clues

GRADE 6 · 6.VL.28

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the spoken lines aloud quietly. Circle tentative, muffled, improvise, and verify, then underline the words each speaker says that help you figure out the meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does tentative mean when Leo describes the opening time? Which of Leo's words help you decide?	**The time is not final. Leo says the bus schedule might change and tells Maya not to print the posters yet.**
2	What does muffled mean when Ms. Chen describes the recording? Which words does she say that give you a clue?	**The sound is hard to hear clearly. Ms. Chen says she can hardly hear Maya's words on the recording.**
3	What does improvise mean in Tori's plan? What does Tori say she will do?	**It means finding a new way to do something when the first plan fails. Tori plans to stack cardboard boxes under the sign because the wooden base cracked.**
4	What does verify mean in Sam's advice? Which two actions does Sam suggest?	**It means checking whether information is correct. Sam suggests asking Leo and checking the printed schedule.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ari: We finally reached the soccer field. I'm parched.
Nia: You ran here in the sun without a water bottle?
Ari: Yes, and my throat feels dry.
Nia: Here, take a drink from mine.

Accept accurate synonyms supported by the speakers' words. For Part 3, look for four lines of dialogue in a new setting, with spoken clues that reveal the chosen word's meaning without stating a definition.