Clue Tool Sort

Choose the best tool for finding a word's meaning.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONTEXT

Use context clues when nearby words tell what an unfamiliar word means. Look for details, examples, or actions in the sentence.

The path was narrow, barely wide enough for one person.

WORD PARTS

Use word-part clues when a prefix, root, or suffix helps explain a word. Break the word into parts you know.

re + read makes reread, which means read again.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the tool that best helps you find each word's meaning, then choose two items and explain the clue words or word parts you used.

1.	The glass was fragile, so Noah carried it carefully.	CONTEXT	WORD PART
2.	un + happy	CONTEXT	WORD PART
3.	care + less	CONTEXT	WORD PART
4.	After the long hike, Lina was weary and needed to rest.	CONTEXT	WORD PART
5.	dis + agree	CONTEXT	WORD PART
6.	The crowd was jubilant after the team won the championship.	CONTEXT	WORD PART
7.	The room was dim, so we turned on a lamp.	CONTEXT	WORD PART
8.	re + usable	CONTEXT	WORD PART

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new CONTEXT example and one new WORD PART example. Make each example show how the meaning can be figured out.

CONTEXT _____

WORD PART _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a word that has a prefix or suffix, and add context clues that confirm the word's meaning. Underline the word part and circle the context clues.

ANSWER KEY

Clue Tool Sort

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.L.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The glass was fragile, so Noah carried it carefully.	**CONTEXT**	The action of carrying it carefully shows that fragile means easily broken.
2	un + happy	**WORD PART**	The prefix un- means not, so unhappy means not happy.
3	care + less	**WORD PART**	The suffix -less means without, so careless means without care.
4	After the long hike, Lina was weary and needed to rest.	**CONTEXT**	Needing to rest after a hike shows that weary means very tired.
5	dis + agree	**WORD PART**	The prefix dis- can mean not or opposite, so disagree means not agree.
6	The crowd was jubilant after the team won the championship.	**CONTEXT**	Winning a championship shows that jubilant means very happy.
7	The room was dim, so we turned on a lamp.	**CONTEXT**	Turning on a lamp shows that dim means not bright.
8	re + usable	**WORD PART**	The prefix re- means again, and -able means can be, so reusable means able to be used again.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CONTEXT**: The toddler was drowsy, so he yawned and fell asleep.
- **WORD PART**: A preview is a view before something happens because pre- means before.

Challenge: After losing the map, we retraced our steps and walked the same trail again. The word part is re- in retraced. The context clues are walked the same trail again.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept any two items if the student identifies relevant clue words for CONTEXT or correctly names the helpful prefix or suffix for WORD PART. In the challenge, the sentence should include both a meaningful word part and context that supports the meaning.