

Words in Flight

Track how word forms signal meaning and grammatical role.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.11-12.4b "Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word that belongs to a repeated word family. Above each underlined word, write V for verb, N for noun, or Adj for adjective to show how its form and job change.

Marsh Words, Changing Forms

- ① On a spring morning, biologist Lena Ortiz waited beside a marsh where thousands of sandhill cranes paused during migration. She recorded each flock's arrival, then compared the results with observations from earlier years. The birds migrate along routes shaped by weather, food, and safe resting places. A migratory map can show where cranes travel, but it cannot explain every choice they make. Ortiz therefore combined maps with field notes, hoping to recognize patterns that might guide future protection of the marsh and its fragile shoreline.
- ② Her work became part of a larger conservation project led by local residents. Each autumn, volunteers surveyed water levels, removed invasive plants, and asked landowners to conserve strips of native grass near the marsh. Several conservationists also met with city planners, arguing that new roads should avoid nesting areas. Their proposal described practical changes, not a promise that every crane would return. By comparing annual counts, the group could evaluate whether its choices were improving the birds' chances of completing their migration safely each year.
- ③ At a public meeting, Ortiz explained that prediction is useful only when it rests on evidence. A scientist may predict that a dry season will lower marsh water, yet a prediction can change when new measurements arrive. She also warned against assuming that a solution is permanent simply because it seems workable today. Some outcomes are foreseeable, such as reduced nesting space after a shoreline is paved. Others remain uncertain. Careful observers analyze data, revise their analyses, and describe limits as clearly as results. This precision helps communities make decisions without pretending to control a changing ecosystem.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Find the three migration-family words in paragraph 1. For each word, state whether it functions as a noun, verb, or adjective in the passage.

- 2** How does adding -ist to conservation change the word's meaning in paragraph 2? Use conservationists in your answer.

- 3** Compare predict and prediction in paragraph 3. What ending change occurs, and how does each word function in its sentence?

- 4** In the phrase "observers analyze data, revise their analyses," what does the change from analyze to analyses show about the word's job?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a school or community issue. Write three connected sentences that use observe, observation, and observable accurately. Underline the three words and label them V, N, and Adj.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each word that belongs to a repeated word family. Above each underlined word, write V for verb, N for noun, or Adj for adjective to show how its form and job change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Find the three migration-family words in paragraph 1. For each word, state whether it functions as a noun, verb, or adjective in the passage.	migration, noun; migrate, verb; migratory, adjective.
2	How does adding -ist to conservation change the word's meaning in paragraph 2? Use conservationists in your answer.	It forms conservationists, a noun for people involved in or supporting conservation.
3	Compare predict and prediction in paragraph 3. What ending change occurs, and how does each word function in its sentence?	The verb predict becomes the noun prediction, changing the ending from -ict to -iction.
4	In the phrase "observers analyze data, revise their analyses," what does the change from analyze to analyses show about the word's job?	analyze is a verb meaning to examine; analyses is a plural noun meaning examinations or studies.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students observe (V) the cafeteria's waste bins for one week. Their observation (N) shows that unopened fruit is often discarded. The amount of fruit waste is observable (Adj) in the daily tally.

Accept accurate labels and explanations of how a changed ending shifts a word's grammatical role or meaning. For Part 3, accept any coherent topic if observe is used as a verb, observation as a noun, and observable as an adjective.