

Root Clue Detectives

Look for a root that helps explain a word.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4c "Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., addition, additional)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

THE KNOWN WORD HELPS

The known word is a root in the new word. It gives a clue to the new word's meaning.

Caring, known word care. Care helps you understand caring.

THE KNOWN WORD DOES NOT HELP

The known word may be inside the new word, but it is not a root. It does not give a clue to the new word's meaning.

Candle, known word can. Can does not help you understand candle.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle ROOT CLUE or NO CLUE for each item, then in PROVE IT, choose two items and tell how the known word did or did not help.

1. teacher, known word: teach

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

2. carpet, known word: car

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

3. reread, known word: read

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

4. winter, known word: win

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

5. painter, known word: paint

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

6. corner, known word: corn

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

7. unsafe, known word: safe

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

8. candy, known word: can

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

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 ROOT CLUE pair and one new NO CLUE pair. For each pair, write the new word and the known word.

ROOT CLUE _____

NO CLUE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose your ROOT CLUE pair. Write a sentence with the new word, underline the root, and tell what the new word means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	teacher, known word: teach	ROOT CLUE	Teach is the root of teacher. A teacher is a person who teaches.
2	carpet, known word: car	NO CLUE	Car is not a root of carpet, and the meanings are unrelated.
3	reread, known word: read	ROOT CLUE	Read is the root of reread. Reread means read again.
4	winter, known word: win	NO CLUE	Win is not a root of winter, and the meanings are unrelated.
5	painter, known word: paint	ROOT CLUE	Paint is the root of painter. A painter is a person who paints.
6	corner, known word: corn	NO CLUE	Corn is not a root of corner, and the meanings are unrelated.
7	unsafe, known word: safe	ROOT CLUE	Safe is the root of unsafe. Unsafe means not safe.
8	candy, known word: can	NO CLUE	Can is not a root of candy, and the meanings are unrelated.

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)

- **ROOT CLUE:** joyful, known word joy.
- **NO CLUE:** market, known word mark.

Challenge: The farmer feeds the chickens. Root: farm. Farmer means a person who works on a farm.

For PROVE IT, students should name the known word and explain whether it gives a meaning clue. Accept different Part 3 examples if the root relationship, or lack of a root relationship, is correct.