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. reread, known word: read — ROOT CLUE / NO CLUE

3. carpet, known word: car — ROOT CLUE / NO CLUE

4. painter, known word: paint — ROOT CLUE / NO CLUE

5. winter, known word: win — 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.

ANSWER KEY

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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	reread, known word: read	**ROOT CLUE**	Read is the root of reread. Reread means read again.
3	carpet, known word: car	**NO CLUE**	Car is not a root of carpet, and the meanings are unrelated.
4	painter, known word: paint	**ROOT CLUE**	Paint is the root of painter. A painter is a person who paints.
5	winter, known word: win	**NO CLUE**	Win is not a root of winter, and the meanings are unrelated.
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.

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