

Thing or Action

Use the sentence to find a word's meaning.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

NAMES A THING

A multiple-meaning word can name a person, place, animal, or thing. Use the sentence to decide what it names.

The plant needs water.

SHOWS AN ACTION

A multiple-meaning word can show an action. Use the sentence to decide what happens.

Plant the seeds in a row.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle THING or ACTION for each sentence; Part 2: pick two items and explain which words in the sentences helped you decide.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. "Duck" under the table when the ball flies by. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 2. The "duck" swims in the pond. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 3. Blue "paint" spilled on the paper. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 4. "Paint" a picture of your family. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 5. The "ring" is made of gold. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 6. The bells "ring" at noon. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 7. The "light" shines from the lamp. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |
| 8. "Light" the candle carefully. | ☐ THING | ☐ ACTION |

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

Part 3: Write one sentence with a word that names a **THING** and one sentence with a word that shows an **ACTION**.

THING _____

ACTION _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word that can be a **THING** or an **ACTION**. Write two sentences that show its two meanings.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	"Duck" under the table when the ball flies by.	ACTION	Duck means to lower your body quickly.
2	The "duck" swims in the pond.	THING	Duck names an animal.
3	Blue "paint" spilled on the paper.	THING	Paint names a material used to make pictures.
4	"Paint" a picture of your family.	ACTION	Paint tells what to do.
5	The "ring" is made of gold.	THING	Ring names a piece of jewelry.
6	The bells "ring" at noon.	ACTION	Ring tells what the bells do.
7	The "light" shines from the lamp.	THING	Light names the brightness from the lamp.
8	"Light" the candle carefully.	ACTION	Light tells what to do to the candle.

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)

- **THING:** The wave crashed on the shore.
- **ACTION:** Wave to your friend across the room.

Challenge: The bat slept in the cave. The player will bat in the game.

Accept student examples when the sentence clearly shows whether the word names a thing or shows an action. For Part 2, students may point to context words such as pond, gold, bells, or candle.