

Sure or Unsure?

Sort words by how certain they sound.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.5c "Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SURE

A sure word shows that someone knows something is true. The person has strong proof or information.

Carlos proved that the plant needed water.

NOT SURE

An unsure word shows that someone does not know for certain. The person may be guessing, hoping, or thinking about what could be true.

I doubted that the kite would fly.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SURE or UNSURE for each item, then choose two items and explain which word showed you how certain the speaker was.

1. Maya knew the answer after checking the map.

SURE

UNSURE

2. Lena was certain that $6 + 3 = 9$.

SURE

UNSURE

3. Omar wondered whether the seeds would sprout.

SURE

UNSURE

4. Dad confirmed that the bus arrives at 8:00.

SURE

UNSURE

5. Theo believed the trail led to the pond.

SURE

UNSURE

6. I suspected that the puppy was under the porch.

SURE

UNSURE

7. We discovered that ice melts in a warm room.

SURE

UNSURE

8. Ava verified that the art room was open.

SURE

UNSURE

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 sentence with a SURE word and one new sentence with an UNSURE word.

SURE _____

UNSURE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same event. Use an UNSURE word in the first sentence and a SURE word in the second sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya knew the answer after checking the map.	SURE	Knew shows that Maya was certain.
2	Lena was certain that $6 + 3 = 9$.	SURE	Certain shows strong confidence that something is true.
3	Omar wondered whether the seeds would sprout.	UNSURE	Wondered shows that Omar did not know what would happen.
4	Dad confirmed that the bus arrives at 8:00.	SURE	Confirmed means the information was checked and shown to be true.
5	Theo believed the trail led to the pond.	UNSURE	Believed shows Theo thought it was true, but did not know for sure.
6	I suspected that the puppy was under the porch.	UNSURE	Suspected means thinking something may be true without proof.
7	We discovered that ice melts in a warm room.	SURE	Discovered shows that the fact was found out.
8	Ava verified that the art room was open.	SURE	Verified means Ava checked and knew it was true.

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)

- **SURE:** Zoe confirmed that the door was locked.
- **UNSURE:** I guessed that my friend chose the red cup.

Challenge: At first, I suspected that the package was for my brother. After I read the label, I knew it was for him.

Accept other responses when the selected word clearly shows certainty or uncertainty. In Part 2, students should name a word from each chosen item and explain that it shows knowing for sure or not knowing for sure.