

Clue or Look Up

Use nearby words to choose a strategy.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4 “Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

ENOUGH CLUES

Use this when nearby words explain an unfamiliar word. Look for a definition, example, or clue about what happens.

scorching: The scorching pavement was so hot that it burned bare feet.

NEED A TOOL

Use this when the sentence does not give enough clues. Check a dictionary, glossary, or other reference source.

apparatus: The scientist adjusted the apparatus.

1 SORT 8 items

Circle CONTEXT or LOOK UP for each item, then choose two items and explain the clues or lack of clues that helped you decide.

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| 1. weary: The weary hikers were tired after walking all day. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. ledger: The baker checked the ledger before closing the shop. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. fragile: The fragile vase cracked easily when it fell. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. migrate: Geese migrate in autumn. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. brisk: A brisk wind blew across the field. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. gloomy: The gloomy sky was dark and gray. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. canal: The guide pointed to the canal. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. reluctant: Ava was reluctant to dive, so she stayed at the pool's edge. | CONTEXT | LOOK UP |

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 CONTEXT sentence and one new LOOK UP sentence. Put the target word first, followed by a colon.

CONTEXT _____

LOOK UP _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a word for a LOOK UP sentence, then revise the sentence by adding enough clues to make it a CONTEXT sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	weary: The weary hikers were tired after walking all day.	CONTEXT	The word tired explains weary.
2	ledger: The baker checked the ledger before closing the shop.	LOOK UP	The sentence gives no definition or clear meaning clue for ledger.
3	fragile: The fragile vase cracked easily when it fell.	CONTEXT	Cracked easily gives a clue that fragile means easily broken.
4	migrate: Geese migrate in autumn.	LOOK UP	The sentence does not clearly explain what migrate means.
5	brisk: A brisk wind blew across the field.	LOOK UP	The sentence gives no clear meaning clue for brisk.
6	gloomy: The gloomy sky was dark and gray.	CONTEXT	Dark and gray explains gloomy.
7	canal: The guide pointed to the canal.	LOOK UP	The sentence does not explain what a canal is.
8	reluctant: Ava was reluctant to dive, so she stayed at the pool's edge.	CONTEXT	Staying at the pool's edge shows that reluctant means unwilling or hesitant.

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)

- **CONTEXT:** parched: The parched runner drank water because she was very thirsty.
- **LOOK UP:** pavilion: The visitor entered the pavilion.

Challenge: LOOK UP: amphibian: The amphibian rested under a leaf. CONTEXT: amphibian: The amphibian, an animal that lives on land and in water, rested under a leaf.

Part 2 answers vary. Accept explanations that name supporting words for CONTEXT choices or explain that no meaning clue is given for LOOK UP choices.