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

2. ledger: The baker checked the ledger before closing the shop. CONTEXT LOOK UP

3. fragile: The fragile vase cracked easily when it fell. CONTEXT LOOK UP

4. migrate: Geese migrate in autumn. CONTEXT LOOK UP

5. brisk: A brisk wind blew across the field. CONTEXT LOOK UP

6. gloomy: The gloomy sky was dark and gray. CONTEXT LOOK UP

7. canal: The guide pointed to the canal. CONTEXT LOOK UP

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.

ANSWER KEY

Clue or Look Up

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.