Lookup Lab Labels

Use reference tools to make museum writing exact.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4c "Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word the volunteers consult a reference material about. Circle each source they use, then label the source M for meaning, P for part of speech, or S for pronunciation.

Writing Accurate Museum Labels

1. At Harborview Museum, sixth-grade volunteers prepared labels for a display about ancient trade. Maya wrote that merchants carried cargo in vessels. She wondered whether vessel meant a boat, a container, or a blood tube. Instead of guessing, she opened the exhibit glossary. Its entry said vessel, noun, a ship or large boat used on water. The definition fit the label because the merchants traveled across the sea. Maya copied only the meaning that matched her sentence and noted the word's part of speech.

2. Later, Jordan recorded a short audio guide. He needed to say the word barter clearly before explaining how people exchanged goods without money. A digital dictionary showed /ˈbɑr.tər/ and included a speaker button. Jordan listened twice, then practiced BAR-ter, with stress on the first syllable. The dictionary also listed barter as a verb meaning to trade goods or services. Jordan used the pronunciation guide, not a spelling guess, because the letters ar can sound different in other English words.

3. For another label, Eli described a fragile clay cup found near a trading port. A thesaurus offered delicate, weak, and breakable as related words, but it did not explain the exact meaning. Eli checked a learner's dictionary next. It defined fragile as easily broken or damaged. He chose fragile because the cup could crack during handling, not because it was weak in an argument. The dictionary label, adjective, helped him place the word before the noun cup. By comparing sources, Eli made his label precise.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which reference material did Maya use for vessel, and which meaning did she select for her label?

2. What two digital dictionary features helped Jordan learn how to pronounce barter?

3. According to the digital dictionary, what part of speech is barter, and what does it mean?

4. Why did Eli check a learner's dictionary after using a thesaurus? Include the precise meaning and part of speech he found for fragile.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a word not used in the passage and consult a print or digital dictionary. Write two sentences: name the source, word, part of speech, and precise meaning in the first sentence, then give its pronunciation and use the word correctly in a sentence in the second.

ANSWER KEY

Lookup Lab Labels

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word the volunteers consult a reference material about. Circle each source they use, then label the source M for meaning, P for part of speech, or S for pronunciation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which reference material did Maya use for vessel, and which meaning did she select for her label?	**She used the exhibit glossary and selected "a ship or large boat used on water."**
2	What two digital dictionary features helped Jordan learn how to pronounce barter?	**The pronunciation /ˈbɑr.tər/ and the speaker button.**
3	According to the digital dictionary, what part of speech is barter, and what does it mean?	**Barter is a verb meaning to trade goods or services.**
4	Why did Eli check a learner's dictionary after using a thesaurus? Include the precise meaning and part of speech he found for fragile.	**The thesaurus gave related words but not an exact meaning. The dictionary defined fragile as "easily broken or damaged" and labeled it an adjective.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I consulted a digital dictionary for predict, a verb meaning to say what you think will happen in the future. Its pronunciation is /prɪˈdɪkt/, and I wrote, "Scientists predict rain for tomorrow."

Accept equivalent dictionary wording for meanings and pronunciations when it is accurate. For Part 3, check that the student uses a reference source, gives the correct part of speech and meaning, includes a pronunciation, and writes a sentence that fits the meaning.