Clue or Check

Use the sentence to choose a word-solving strategy.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONTEXT

Choose CONTEXT when nearby words give enough information to figure out the word's meaning. Look for a definition, example, contrast, or description.

The squirrel was NIMBLE, moving quickly along the branch.

REFERENCE

Choose REFERENCE when the sentence does not give enough information to know the word's exact meaning. Use a dictionary, glossary, or another reference source.

In her notes, Priya underlined the word METAPHOR.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle CONTEXT or REFERENCE, then choose two items and explain how you knew which choice fit.

1.	The puppy was TIMID, so it hid behind the chair when visitors arrived.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
2.	The desert was ARID, with almost no rain or plants.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
3.	The editor revised the article's TONE before it was published.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
4.	The team faced a DILEMMA, a difficult choice between two possible plans.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
5.	The map showed the region's TOPOGRAPHY in detail.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
6.	The mayor spoke about the city's INFRASTRUCTURE at the meeting.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
7.	After the long hike, Jalen felt EXHAUSTED, too tired to take another step.	CONTEXT REFERENCE
8.	The judge's verdict was UNANIMOUS, meaning every juror agreed.	CONTEXT REFERENCE

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 sentence in which CONTEXT is the best choice and one sentence in which REFERENCE is the best choice.

CONTEXT _____

REFERENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a multiple-meaning word. Add a second sentence that states the meaning used in your sentence.

ANSWER KEY # Clue or Check

GRADE 7 · L.7.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy was TIMID, so it hid behind the chair when visitors arrived.	**CONTEXT**	Hid from visitors shows that timid means shy or fearful.
2	The desert was ARID, with almost no rain or plants.	**CONTEXT**	Almost no rain or plants defines arid as very dry.
3	The editor revised the article's TONE before it was published.	**REFERENCE**	The sentence does not explain the exact meaning of tone.
4	The team faced a DILEMMA, a difficult choice between two possible plans.	**CONTEXT**	A difficult choice between plans directly explains dilemma.
5	The map showed the region's TOPOGRAPHY in detail.	**REFERENCE**	The sentence does not define topography.
6	The mayor spoke about the city's INFRASTRUCTURE at the meeting.	**REFERENCE**	The sentence gives no details about what infrastructure includes.
7	After the long hike, Jalen felt EXHAUSTED, too tired to take another step.	**CONTEXT**	Too tired to take another step defines exhausted.
8	The judge's verdict was UNANIMOUS, meaning every juror agreed.	**CONTEXT**	Every juror agreed directly defines unanimous.

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**: The kitten was RAVENOUS, so hungry that it emptied its bowl in seconds.
- **REFERENCE**: The lab report mentions PHOTOSYNTHESIS.

Challenge: Maya used a BAT to hit the ball across the field. BAT means sports equipment, not an animal.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students may choose any two items. Accept explanations that identify a useful context clue or explain that the sentence lacks enough detail for an exact meaning.