Exact or Extra?

Sort sentences by how their words create meaning.

ELA.4.V.1.3 "Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level."

NAME _____ DATE _____

LITERAL MEANING

The words mean exactly what they say. You can picture the action or fact as it really happens.

A turtle crawls beside a pond.

FIGURATIVE MEANING

The words create a picture or comparison that is not exactly true. Think about the idea the speaker means.

Her smile is sunshine.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle LITERAL or FIGURATIVE, then choose two items and explain which words or clues helped you decide.

1. The puppy slept on the rug. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
2. My backpack weighs a ton. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
3. The test was a piece of cake. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
4. We planted seeds in the garden. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
5. The stars danced across the sky. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
6. The window rattled in the wind. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
7. Luis carried three books. LITERAL FIGURATIVE
8. The soup smelled spicy. LITERAL FIGURATIVE

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 LITERAL sentence and one new FIGURATIVE sentence.

LITERAL _____

FIGURATIVE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a figurative sentence, then tell what it really means.

ANSWER KEY # Exact or Extra?

GRADE 4 · ELA.4.V.1.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy slept on the rug.	**LITERAL**	This states an action that can happen exactly as written.
2	My backpack weighs a ton.	**FIGURATIVE**	A backpack does not truly weigh a ton. The speaker means it feels very heavy.
3	The test was a piece of cake.	**FIGURATIVE**	A test is not food. This means the test was easy.
4	We planted seeds in the garden.	**LITERAL**	This is an action that can happen exactly as stated.
5	The stars danced across the sky.	**FIGURATIVE**	Stars cannot literally dance. The words describe how they seemed to move or sparkle.
6	The window rattled in the wind.	**LITERAL**	A window can make a rattling sound when wind blows.
7	Luis carried three books.	**LITERAL**	This gives a possible action and an exact number.
8	The soup smelled spicy.	**LITERAL**	Soup can have a spicy smell.

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)

- **LITERAL**: A turtle crawls beside a pond.
- **FIGURATIVE**: Her smile is sunshine.

Challenge: After the long hike, my legs were jelly. This means my legs felt weak and wobbly.

For Part 2, students should name a clue, such as words that cannot happen exactly as written, or explain the exact action in a literal sentence. Accept Part 3 and challenge answers that clearly match the intended category and explanation.