

Word Part Detectives

Use roots and affixes to test a meaning.

10.L.V.2.a “Deconstruct unknown words or phrases using etymology knowledge, common Greek and Latin roots, root words, and/or affixes to determine meaning as used in grade-level texts. (I)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

WORD PARTS SUPPORT

A stated meaning is supported when the word's prefix, root, or suffix points to that meaning.

invisible: unable to be seen. In- means not, vis means see, and -ible means able to.

WORD PARTS CONFLICT

A stated meaning conflicts when it disagrees with important word parts.

bilingual: a person who speaks only one language. Bi- means two and lingu means language, so the stated meaning conflicts with the word parts.

1 SORT 8 items

For each item, circle SUPPORTS or CONFLICTS, then choose two items and explain which word parts prove each choice.

1. benevolent: wishing others well

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

2. circumlocution: a roundabout way of speaking

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

3. monologue: a conversation among several people

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

4. audible: able to be heard

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

5. predecessor: a person who comes after another

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

6. subterranean: above the ground

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

7. geothermal: heat from Earth

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

8. interstellar: between stars

SUPPORTS

CONFLICTS

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 word and stated meaning for SUPPORTS and one new word and stated meaning for CONFLICTS.

SUPPORTS _____

CONFLICTS _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one of your examples, name two word parts, and explain how both support or conflict with the stated meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	benevolent: wishing others well	SUPPORTS	Bene means well, and vol relates to wishing.
2	circumlocution: a roundabout way of speaking	SUPPORTS	Circum means around, and locution relates to speaking.
3	monologue: a conversation among several people	CONFLICTS	Mono means one, so a monologue is speech by one person.
4	audible: able to be heard	SUPPORTS	Aud means hear, and -ible means able to.
5	predecessor: a person who comes after another	CONFLICTS	Pre means before, so a predecessor comes earlier.
6	subterranean: above the ground	CONFLICTS	Sub means under, and terra means earth.
7	geothermal: heat from Earth	SUPPORTS	Geo means earth, and therm means heat.
8	interstellar: between stars	SUPPORTS	Inter means between, and stellar relates to stars.

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)

- **SUPPORTS:** chronological: arranged by time.
- **CONFLICTS:** autobiography: a book about someone else's life.

Challenge: In autobiography, auto means self and graph means write, so the word parts conflict with the claim that the book is about someone else's life.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect relevant roots or affixes to the stated meaning. For the two proof explanations, students should cite word parts rather than only repeat the correct definition.