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 _____

SUPPORTS

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.

CONFLICTS

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.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

GRADE 10 · 10.L.V.2.a

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 any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.