Words at Work

Track how vocabulary changes across a coastal wind project.

11.L.V.1.a "Acquire a range of general, academic, disciplinary, technical, and professional vocabulary through grade-level print, digital, and/or multimodal texts or content. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline at least seven words or phrases that carry important meaning in the passage. In the margin, label each one G for general, A for academic, D/T for disciplinary or technical, or P for professional vocabulary, then use nearby clues to help you determine its meaning.

Building a Wind Farm at Sea

1 Before a coastal wind farm can send electricity to homes, planners study more than wind speed. They map shipping lanes, fishing grounds, bird migration routes, and the seafloor. This preliminary survey helps the project team assess whether turbines can operate safely and whether construction could disturb marine habitats. Engineers also collect baseline data, measurements taken before work begins, so later changes can be compared fairly. The goal is not simply to build quickly. It is to balance energy production with navigation, wildlife protection, and the needs of nearby communities.

2 At the proposed site, geotechnical crews test sediment beneath the water. Their findings guide the foundation design, because a turbine must withstand waves, currents, and repeated vibration. During installation, technicians use a jack-up vessel, a ship that raises itself above the water on long legs, to position heavy components. Workers follow a lifting plan that identifies load limits, weather conditions, and communication signals. A marine biologist may recommend a seasonal restriction, a period when noisy pile driving stops, to reduce harm to migrating animals. These specialized terms allow different experts to coordinate precise decisions.

3 Vocabulary also appears in documents written for different audiences. A public notice might state that crews will temporarily reroute boats near the work zone. An environmental report could describe turbidity, cloudiness caused when sediment is stirred into water, and explain how monitors will measure it. In a contractor's daily log, the word mobilization means moving people, equipment, and supplies to the site. Although each document uses a different register, or level of formality and specialized language, all must be accurate. Readers can use nearby definitions, examples, and the document's purpose to infer an unfamiliar term's meaning without guessing randomly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Use the context in paragraph 1 to explain what baseline data means. Which nearby words give you the strongest clue?

2. What does geotechnical most likely describe in paragraph 2? Use the actions of the crews and the purpose of their findings to support your answer.

3. How does the passage help you determine the meaning of jack-up vessel without using a dictionary?

4. In which professional document would you find the word mobilization, and what does it mean in that document?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a field you know, such as sports medicine, coding, agriculture, or theater. Write a 55-70 word update for a real audience, using one academic word, two field-specific terms, and one workplace term. Give a clear context clue for each field-specific or workplace term.

ANSWER KEY

Words at Work

GRADE 11 · 11.L.V.1.a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline at least seven words or phrases that carry important meaning in the passage. In the margin, label each one G for general, A for academic, D/T for disciplinary or technical, or P for professional vocabulary, then use nearby clues to help you determine its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use the context in paragraph 1 to explain what baseline data means. Which nearby words give you the strongest clue?	**Baseline data means measurements collected before work begins so later changes can be compared. The strongest clue is "measurements taken before work begins."**
2	What does geotechnical most likely describe in paragraph 2? Use the actions of the crews and the purpose of their findings to support your answer.	**Geotechnical describes work involving the sediment or ground conditions at the site. The crews test sediment, and their findings guide the turbine foundation design.**
3	How does the passage help you determine the meaning of jack-up vessel without using a dictionary?	**An appositive definition explains that it is a ship that raises itself above the water on long legs.**
4	In which professional document would you find the word mobilization, and what does it mean in that document?	**It would appear in a contractor's daily log. It means moving people, equipment, and supplies to the site.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Before Friday's demonstration, the robotics team will analyze the rover's turning problem. A servo motor, a device that rotates to a chosen angle, may need replacement. An ultrasonic sensor, which uses sound waves to detect nearby objects, must be tested. The technician will update the inventory, the workplace list of available parts, before ordering supplies.

Accept reasonable category labels when students can support them with the passage, since some terms may function in more than one vocabulary category. For the open response, check the word count, the required vocabulary range, and context clues that make the specialized and workplace terms understandable.