Meaning in Motion

Use grammatical roles to infer meaning.

11.L.V.2.b "Determine the meanings of words and phrases in context by analyzing the function of parts of speech. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline six words or phrases whose meanings you can infer from context, label each one N, V, Adj, or Adv, and draw an arrow to the nearby words that help reveal its meaning.

Mapping City Heat

1 On a July afternoon, a group of high school researchers mapped heat across their city. They carried portable sensors along bus routes, sidewalks, and parking lots, recording air temperature every few seconds. Rather than rely on a single airport reading, the group canvassed many neighborhoods. Their route passed shaded porches, treeless intersections, and a broad asphalt lot behind a shopping center. By sunset, the students had gathered thousands of measurements. The numbers revealed that a city can hold several temperatures at once, depending on the surfaces and structures surrounding each sensor.

2 At first, the map looked like a patchwork quilt, with cool pockets beside hotter bands. The most intense readings clustered near dark pavement and buildings that absorbed sunlight. In contrast, tree-lined streets often registered lower temperatures, even when they stood only a block away. The researchers did not claim that one tree could transform an entire neighborhood. Instead, they compared repeated readings and looked for patterns. A narrow strip of shade might briefly soften the heat, while a large paved area could steadily radiate warmth after the sun had lowered.

3 City planners can use such maps to target practical changes. A map does not order officials to act, but it can make unequal conditions visible at street level. In one area, planners might prioritize trees, lighter roofing, or shaded bus stops. In another, they might revise a parking-lot design so that less pavement absorbs solar energy. The students' data became more than a record of a hot day. It served as evidence, helping residents and decision makers discuss which improvements would most directly cool the places where people walk, wait, and live.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does canvassed mean? Explain how its function as a verb helps you determine its meaning.

2. In paragraph 2, what does clustered mean in "readings clustered near dark pavement"? Explain how its function in the sentence helps.

3. In the phrase "briefly soften the heat," what does briefly mean? How does its function as an adverb help you decide?

4. In paragraph 3, what does target mean in "use such maps to target practical changes"? Explain how its function as a verb helps you determine its meaning.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a public place or school setting. Use the same word in two different parts of speech in the first two sentences, then identify each part of speech and explain the word's meaning in the third sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Meaning in Motion

GRADE 11 · 11.L.V.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline six words or phrases whose meanings you can infer from context, label each one N, V, Adj, or Adv, and draw an arrow to the nearby words that help reveal its meaning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does canvassed mean? Explain how its function as a verb helps you determine its meaning.	**Canvassed means surveyed or examined many areas. It is a past-tense verb showing what the group did to the neighborhoods.**
2	In paragraph 2, what does clustered mean in "readings clustered near dark pavement"? Explain how its function in the sentence helps.	**Clustered means gathered or concentrated. It is a verb describing where the readings were located.**
3	In the phrase "briefly soften the heat," what does briefly mean? How does its function as an adverb help you decide?	**Briefly means for a short time. As an adverb, it modifies soften and tells how long the cooling effect lasts.**
4	In paragraph 3, what does target mean in "use such maps to target practical changes"? Explain how its function as a verb helps you determine its meaning.	**Target means direct attention or effort toward. It is an infinitive verb after to and takes practical changes as its object.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the museum, a monitor displayed the gallery's humidity. Conservators monitor the humidity throughout the day. In sentence 1, monitor is a noun meaning a display screen; in sentence 2, monitor is a verb meaning observe closely.

Accept reasonable synonyms when students connect the meaning to the word's grammatical function and nearby context. For the open task, accept any accurate use of one word in two different parts of speech, with a correct explanation of both meanings.