Careful or Cautious

Sort adverbs by the kind of care they show.

4.L.V.3.c "Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related adverbs (e.g., quickly, swiftly, rapidly). (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CAREFUL ADVERBS

Careful adverbs show attention to doing a task well, neatly, or correctly. They focus on the work itself.

Jorge accurately copied the address onto the envelope.

CAUTIOUS ADVERBS

Cautious adverbs show extra care because something could go wrong or be unsafe. They focus on avoiding a problem.

Caleb alertly watched the dark trail for bears.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, then circle CAREFUL or CAUTIOUS to show the shade of meaning of its adverb.

1. Ravi precisely measured the paint for the model. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

2. The scientist cautiously handled the acid. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

3. Ava warily stepped around the broken glass. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

4. Ben thoroughly checked each answer before turning in his test. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

5. The baker neatly piped frosting onto each cupcake. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

6. Keisha attentively followed the steps for the experiment. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

7. The fox gingerly crossed the fallen log above the stream. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

8. The cyclist cautiously rode past the loose gravel. CAREFUL CAUTIOUS

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 sentence with a careful adverb and one sentence with a cautious adverb.

CAREFUL _____

CAUTIOUS _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same action. Use a careful adverb in the first sentence and a cautious adverb in the second sentence. Show why the meanings are different.

ANSWER KEY

Careful or Cautious

GRADE 4 · 4.L.V.3.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Ravi precisely measured the paint for the model.	**CAREFUL**	Precisely shows attention to exact work.
2	The scientist cautiously handled the acid.	**CAUTIOUS**	Cautiously shows care to avoid danger.
3	Ava warily stepped around the broken glass.	**CAUTIOUS**	Warily shows watchful care around something unsafe.
4	Ben thoroughly checked each answer before turning in his test.	**CAREFUL**	Thoroughly shows attention to completing work well.
5	The baker neatly piped frosting onto each cupcake.	**CAREFUL**	Neatly shows care in doing the task well.
6	Keisha attentively followed the steps for the experiment.	**CAREFUL**	Attentively shows close attention to the task.
7	The fox gingerly crossed the fallen log above the stream.	**CAUTIOUS**	Gingerly shows extra care because crossing could be risky.
8	The cyclist cautiously rode past the loose gravel.	**CAUTIOUS**	Cautiously shows care to avoid a possible accident.

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)

- **CAREFUL**: I accurately copied the number from the chart.
- **CAUTIOUS**: Nora cautiously reached past the sleeping snake.

Challenge: Mia carefully set the vase on the shelf. Mia gingerly set the vase on the shelf because the shelf was loose.

Accept other adverbs when the sentence clearly shows attention to doing work well or extra care to avoid danger. Ask students to use the context as well as the adverb when explaining their choices.