

Clue Detectives

Sort context clues, prove your choices, and create examples.

5.L.V.3.a "Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

ENOUGH CLUES

Words around an unfamiliar word show what it means.
Look for causes, effects, or comparisons.

Because the baby was exhausted, she fell asleep
before dinner.

MISSING CLUES

The words around an unfamiliar word do not show its
exact meaning. You need more information.

The baby was exhausted.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1 SORT: Read each item and circle ENOUGH if the context shows the word's meaning or MISSING if it does not.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | After jogging in the hot sun, Lena was "parched" and drank two cups of water. | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 2. | The puppy was "timid," unlike its bold sister, and hid behind the chair. | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 3. | We talked about the "draft." | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 4. | The path was "steep," so we climbed slowly and leaned forward. | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 5. | I noticed a "ring." | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 6. | Jordan found a "match." | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 7. | The mechanic said the engine was "faulty" because it stopped working each morning. | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |
| 8. | The "bark" was unusual. | <input type="button" value="ENOUGH"/> | <input type="button" value="MISSING"/> |

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

Part 2 PROVE IT: Pick two sort items and explain how you knew which category each belongs in. Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new example for each category.

ENOUGH _____

MISSING _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences using the word "light" with two different meanings, and make each meaning clear with context.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After jogging in the hot sun, Lena was "parched" and drank two cups of water.	ENOUGH	The heat and drinking show that parched means very thirsty.
2	The puppy was "timid," unlike its bold sister, and hid behind the chair.	ENOUGH	The comparison to bold and the hiding show that timid means shy or fearful.
3	We talked about the "draft."	MISSING	No context tells which meaning of draft is meant.
4	The path was "steep," so we climbed slowly and leaned forward.	ENOUGH	The effect of climbing slowly and leaning forward shows that steep means sharply sloped.
5	I noticed a "ring."	MISSING	No context tells whether ring means jewelry, a sound, a circle, or another meaning.
6	Jordan found a "match."	MISSING	No context tells whether match means a pair, a game, or a fire starter.
7	The mechanic said the engine was "faulty" because it stopped working each morning.	ENOUGH	The engine stopping each morning shows that faulty means defective or not working correctly.
8	The "bark" was unusual.	MISSING	No context tells whether bark means a tree covering or a dog's sound.

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)

- **ENOUGH:** After rowing against the wind for hours, the sailors were weary and needed to rest.
- **MISSING:** The sailors were weary.

Challenge: The box was light, so Maya lifted it with one hand. At dusk, the porch light shone on the steps.

For Part 2, students should identify specific nearby words that provide a cause, effect, or comparison, or explain what information is missing. Accept varied student-created examples when the context clearly supports the chosen category.