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

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.	ENOUGH MISSING
2.	The puppy was "timid," unlike its bold sister, and hid behind the chair.	ENOUGH MISSING
3.	We talked about the "draft."	ENOUGH MISSING
4.	The path was "steep," so we climbed slowly and leaned forward.	ENOUGH MISSING
5.	I noticed a "ring."	ENOUGH MISSING
6.	Jordan found a "match."	ENOUGH MISSING
7.	The mechanic said the engine was "faulty" because it stopped working each morning.	ENOUGH MISSING
8.	The "bark" was unusual.	ENOUGH 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

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.

ANSWER KEY

Clue Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.L.V.3.a

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.

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