

Definition Detectives

Check whether each claimed meaning fits its sentence.

7.L.V.3.d "Use available print and/or digital resources, including reference materials and digital tools (e.g., online search, embedded word processing features), to determine, clarify..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

DEFINITION FITS

A dictionary meaning fits when it agrees with how the word is used in the sentence. Read the whole sentence before you decide.

The puppy began to whine. Claimed meaning: to make a high, sad sound.

DEFINITION DIFFERS

A claimed meaning differs when it does not match how the word is used in the sentence. A dictionary can help you verify the correct meaning.

Please seal the envelope. Claimed meaning: an animal that swims.

1 SORT 8 items

For each item, circle FITS or DIFFERS, then choose two items and explain how the sentence and a dictionary definition prove your choices.

1. After the rain, the trail was muddy. Claimed meaning of trail: a path through an outdoor area. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

2. The class will present its project on Friday. Claimed meaning of present: a gift. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

3. Maya watched the bats fly out of the cave. Claimed meaning of bats: tools used to hit balls. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

4. The coach told us to sprint to the finish line. Claimed meaning of sprint: to run at full speed. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

5. The museum will display the fossils this weekend. Claimed meaning of display: to show something for people to see. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

6. The newspaper will cover the election. Claimed meaning of cover: a blanket placed on a bed. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

7. The tiny insect was hard to spot. Claimed meaning of spot: to see or notice. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

8. We sat near the bank of the river. Claimed meaning of bank: land beside a river. **FITS** **DIFFERS**

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 sentence with a claimed meaning that **FITS** and one new sentence with a claimed meaning that **DIFFERS**.

FITS

DIFFERS

CHALLENGE

Use a print or digital dictionary to find a word with two meanings. Write two sentences, one for each meaning, and list the dictionary meanings you used.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After the rain, the trail was muddy. Claimed meaning of trail: a path through an outdoor area.	FITS	A trail is a path, and the sentence describes that path as muddy.
2	The class will present its project on Friday. Claimed meaning of present: a gift.	DIFFERS	Present means to show or give information in this sentence, not a gift.
3	Maya watched the bats fly out of the cave. Claimed meaning of bats: tools used to hit balls.	DIFFERS	Bats are flying animals in this sentence, not sports equipment.
4	The coach told us to sprint to the finish line. Claimed meaning of sprint: to run at full speed.	FITS	Sprint means to run very fast.
5	The museum will display the fossils this weekend. Claimed meaning of display: to show something for people to see.	FITS	Display means to show items for viewing.
6	The newspaper will cover the election. Claimed meaning of cover: a blanket placed on a bed.	DIFFERS	Cover means to report on the election in this sentence, not a bed blanket.
7	The tiny insect was hard to spot. Claimed meaning of spot: to see or notice.	FITS	Spot means to notice or see something.
8	We sat near the bank of the river. Claimed meaning of bank: land beside a river.	FITS	Bank means the land along the edge of a river.

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)

- **FITS:** The actor will bow after the play. Claimed meaning: to bend forward to show respect.
- **DIFFERS:** I left my helmet in the locker. Claimed meaning: a person who guards a door.

Challenge: The crane lifted the steel beam. We saw a crane standing in the marsh. Dictionary meanings: a machine that lifts heavy objects; a large, long-legged bird.

Accept equivalent dictionary wording when it matches the sentence context. For Part 2, students should cite a relevant definition and point to a sentence clue that supports their choice.