Definition Detectives

Use sentence clues and definitions to check meaning.

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 _____

FITS THE SENTENCE

A definition is a match when it gives the meaning the word has in the sentence. Use nearby words and details as clues.

The cookies were *crisp*. Definition: pleasantly firm and fresh.

DOES NOT FIT

A definition is a mismatch when it does not make sense in the sentence. Check a dictionary or trusted digital source to verify a definition.

The pilot gave a *brief* update. Definition: a legal document presented in court.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle MATCH or MISMATCH for each item, then choose two items and explain how the sentence clues show whether each definition fits.

1.	The packed elevator felt *crowded*. Definition: containing many people or things.	MATCH	MISMATCH
2.	Leo *glanced* at the clock before class. Definition: took a quick look.	MATCH	MISMATCH
3.	The cave was *dim*, so we used flashlights. Definition: filled with bright light.	MATCH	MISMATCH
4.	The artist *mixed* blue and yellow paint. Definition: combined two or more things.	MATCH	MISMATCH
5.	The judge was *fair* to both teams. Definition: dishonest or unjust.	MATCH	MISMATCH
6.	The bicycle in the display was *ancient*. Definition: newly made.	MATCH	MISMATCH
7.	The chef *sprinkled* herbs over the soup. Definition: scattered small amounts of something.	MATCH	MISMATCH
8.	The puppy was *eager* to chase the ball. Definition: unwilling to do something.	MATCH	MISMATCH

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 MATCH example and one new MISMATCH example. Include a sentence with an italicized word and a definition for that word.

MATCH _____

MISMATCH _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using a word with two meanings, list two definitions for the word, and mark which definition matches your sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Definition Detectives

GRADE 7 · 7.L.V.3.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The packed elevator felt *crowded*. Definition: containing many people or things.	**MATCH**	The packed elevator is full of people, so the definition fits.
2	Leo *glanced* at the clock before class. Definition: took a quick look.	**MATCH**	Looking at a clock briefly is a quick look.
3	The cave was *dim*, so we used flashlights. Definition: filled with bright light.	**MISMATCH**	Needing flashlights shows that the cave was not bright.
4	The artist *mixed* blue and yellow paint. Definition: combined two or more things.	**MATCH**	The artist combined paint colors.
5	The judge was *fair* to both teams. Definition: dishonest or unjust.	**MISMATCH**	Being fair to both teams means being just, not dishonest.
6	The bicycle in the display was *ancient*. Definition: newly made.	**MISMATCH**	Ancient means very old, not newly made.
7	The chef *sprinkled* herbs over the soup. Definition: scattered small amounts of something.	**MATCH**	The chef scattered small amounts of herbs.
8	The puppy was *eager* to chase the ball. Definition: unwilling to do something.	**MISMATCH**	Wanting to chase the ball shows willingness, not unwillingness.

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)

- **MATCH**: The hallway was *silent* during the test. Definition: making no sound.
- **MISMATCH**: The river was *shallow* near the bank. Definition: very deep.

Challenge: At the market, I *weighed* the apples. Definitions: 1. Measured how heavy something is. 2. Thought carefully about something. Correct definition: 1.

Part 2 explanations should name a clue from the sentence and connect it to the definition. For Part 3 and the challenge, accept accurate original examples with definitions that clearly match or mismatch the sentence.