Word Jobs at Work

Use parts of speech to unlock precise meanings.

8.L.V.2.b "Apply knowledge of parts of speech to determine the meanings of words and phrases in grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four words that could do a different job in another sentence. In the margin, label each underlined word N for noun or V for verb based on its job in this passage.

A Mountain Backup

1 High on a mountain on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault protects backup seeds from farms around the world. Its remote location offers natural shelter, and the surrounding permafrost helps keep the rooms cold. Workers do not grow crops there. Instead, they store small packets that other seed banks send. Each packet carries a label, so future scientists can identify the plant, its origin, and the year the seeds entered the vault.

2 Inside the vault, the packets rest on metal shelves behind locked doors. The vault serves as a reserve for collections held elsewhere, not as a place where visitors borrow seeds. When a participating seed bank loses a crop variety because of war, disaster, or equipment failure, it may request its own duplicate packets. Staff members then remove the requested packets and ship them back. This careful system gives communities another chance to rebuild a damaged collection.

3 Although the vault lies deep inside a mountain, people still monitor its conditions. Sensors record temperature and humidity, while workers inspect the building during visits. The cold environment slows the aging of most seeds, but it does not stop time completely. Seed banks must replace old samples with fresh ones before too many seeds lose the ability to grow. By preserving many varieties, the vault can support food supplies that may need to adapt to future changes in climate or disease.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, is shelter a noun or a verb? What does shelter mean in the phrase natural shelter?

2. In paragraph 1, how does label function in the phrase carries a label? What does it mean there?

3. In paragraph 2, is reserve a noun or a verb? What does it mean in serves as a reserve?

4. In paragraph 3, what part of speech is monitor in people still monitor its conditions? What does it mean?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a word that can be both a noun and a verb, such as record, plant, or change. Write two original sentences using the word as a noun in one sentence and as a verb in the other, then explain how its meaning changes.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 8 · 8.L.V.2.b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four words that could do a different job in another sentence. In the margin, label each underlined word N for noun or V for verb based on its job in this passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, is shelter a noun or a verb? What does shelter mean in the phrase natural shelter?	**Shelter is a noun. It means protection or a safe place from harsh conditions.**
2	In paragraph 1, how does label function in the phrase carries a label? What does it mean there?	**Label is a noun. It means a tag containing identifying information.**
3	In paragraph 2, is reserve a noun or a verb? What does it mean in serves as a reserve?	**Reserve is a noun. It means a backup supply kept for future use.**
4	In paragraph 3, what part of speech is monitor in people still monitor its conditions? What does it mean?	**Monitor is a verb. It means to watch or check conditions regularly.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Noun: The ranger added the sighting to the record. Verb: Maya will record the owl's call. As a noun, record means stored information. As a verb, it means to save information or sound.

Accept definitions that match the word's part of speech and meaning in its sentence. For Part 3, accept any word accurately used once as a noun and once as a verb, with a clear explanation of the change in meaning.