

Word Build Detectives

Check how word parts work in a sentence.

8.L.V.2.c “Construct words based on knowledge of Greek and Latin roots, root words, and/or affixes and use those words appropriately in context. (C)”

NAME _____

DATE _____

FITS ENGLISH

The word is built in a standard English way, and its meaning fits the sentence.

The archaeologist carefully examined the ancient pottery.

DOES NOT FIT

The word is built in a nonstandard way, or its meaning does not fit the sentence.

The runner was immobile because she moved quickly.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle VALID or INVALID for each sentence, then choose two sentences and explain how the root or affix and the context guided you.

1. The river's visible pollution concerned the town.

VALID

INVALID

2. The museum displayed prehistoric tools.

VALID

INVALID

3. The coach asked players to unstrong their muscles.

VALID

INVALID

4. Her prediction about the storm was accurate.

VALID

INVALID

5. The plumber tried to unrepaired the pipe.

VALID

INVALID

6. The hikers walked through a treeless forest.

VALID

INVALID

7. The committee voted to reconstruct the damaged bridge.

VALID

INVALID

8. The astronaut's return to Earth was successful.

VALID

INVALID

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 for VALID and one new sentence for INVALID.

VALID _____

INVALID _____

CHALLENGE

Write one VALID sentence using a word with a Greek or Latin root and an affix. Then name the root and affix and explain how they help the word fit your sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The river's visible pollution concerned the town.	VALID	Visible is a standard word, and it correctly describes pollution that can be seen.
2	The museum displayed prehistoric tools.	VALID	Prehistoric correctly means before recorded history and fits the tools.
3	The coach asked players to unstrong their muscles.	INVALID	Unstrong is not a standard verb, and the sentence meaning is illogical.
4	Her prediction about the storm was accurate.	VALID	Prediction is a standard word for a statement about what may happen.
5	The plumber tried to unrepaired the pipe.	INVALID	Unrepaired is an adjective, not a verb that can follow to.
6	The hikers walked through a treeless forest.	INVALID	Treeless is a standard word, but it does not fit the meaning of forest.
7	The committee voted to reconstruct the damaged bridge.	VALID	Reconstruct correctly means to build again, which fits repairing a bridge.
8	The astronaut's return to Earth was successful.	VALID	Successful is a standard word, and it correctly describes a return that went well.

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)

- **VALID:** The astronomer used a telescope to study distant stars.
- **INVALID:** The baker used a telescope to mix the dough.

Challenge: The biologist studied plants that grow in a pond. The root bio means life, and the suffix -ist means a person connected with a field, so biologist fits the sentence.

Sort answers: 1 VALID, 2 VALID, 3 INVALID, 4 VALID, 5 INVALID, 6 INVALID, 7 VALID, 8 VALID. For Part 2, students should identify a relevant root or affix and explain whether the word form and sentence meaning fit.