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	DOES NOT FIT
The word is built in a standard English way, and its meaning fits the sentence.	The word is built in a nonstandard way, or its meaning does not fit the sentence.
The archaeologist carefully examined the ancient pottery.	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.

ANSWER KEY

Word Build Detectives

GRADE 8 · 8.L.V.2.c

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.