Meaning Matchup

Sort definitions, prove your choices, and create your own.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

FITS

The definition matches the way the word is used in the sentence. Use context clues, then check a dictionary or trusted digital reference to verify it.

The puppy was timid near strangers. Timid means shy or easily frightened.

MISFITS

The definition does not match the way the word is used in the sentence. Context clues and a dictionary entry show that another meaning is needed.

Nora balanced the tray. Balanced means wrote a story.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle FITS or MISFITS, then choose two items and explain how the sentence context and a dictionary definition show your choice.

1. The editor asked Maya to draft a response. Draft means a first version. FITS MISFITS

2. The scientist will conduct an experiment. Conduct means to lead or carry out. FITS MISFITS

3. The novel won an award. Novel means new and unusual. FITS MISFITS

4. The class studied the subject of climate change. Subject means a topic. FITS MISFITS

5. The capital of Oregon is Salem. Capital means money used to start a business. FITS MISFITS

6. Please address the audience. Address means a postal location. FITS MISFITS

7. The current pulled the boat downstream. Current means moving water. FITS MISFITS

8. The map uses a scale of one inch to ten miles. Scale means a set ratio for a map. FITS MISFITS

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 sentence with a word and a definition that FITS the context, and one sentence with a word and a definition that MISFITS the context.

FITS _____

MISFITS _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one multiple-meaning word, write two sentences that show two different meanings of it, and name a reference tool you would use to verify both meanings.

ANSWER KEY

Meaning Matchup

GRADE 9 · 9.L.V.3.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The editor asked Maya to draft a response. Draft means a first version.	**FITS**	A draft is an early version of a piece of writing.
2	The scientist will conduct an experiment. Conduct means to lead or carry out.	**FITS**	To conduct an experiment means to carry it out.
3	The novel won an award. Novel means new and unusual.	**MISFITS**	In this sentence, novel means a book-length fictional work.
4	The class studied the subject of climate change. Subject means a topic.	**FITS**	Subject means the topic being studied.
5	The capital of Oregon is Salem. Capital means money used to start a business.	**MISFITS**	Here, capital means a city that serves as a government center.
6	Please address the audience. Address means a postal location.	**MISFITS**	Here, address means to speak to or direct remarks to an audience.
7	The current pulled the boat downstream. Current means moving water.	**FITS**	A current is a moving flow of water.
8	The map uses a scale of one inch to ten miles. Scale means a set ratio for a map.	**FITS**	A map scale shows the relationship between map distance and actual distance.

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 desert was arid after months without rain. Arid means very dry.
- **MISFITS**: The mechanic repaired the engine. Repaired means planted seeds.

Challenge: The bat flew out of the cave at dusk. Carlos swung the bat at the baseball. I would use a dictionary to verify both meanings.

For Part 2, students should identify a context clue and explain how a dictionary or reliable online dictionary confirms the meaning. Accept equivalent wording for the definitions when it matches the sentence context.