Spelling Detectives

Sort words by checking their spelling.

L.5.2.e "Use strategies and resources (print and electronic) to identify and correct spelling errors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CORRECT SPELLING

A word is correctly spelled when its letters match a print or online dictionary entry. Check the entry's meaning to make sure you found the word you meant.

mountain

SPELLING ERROR

A word has a spelling error when its letters do not match the dictionary entry for the word you mean. Try searching for a likely correction, then check its meaning.

moutain

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CORRECT or ERROR for each word, then choose two items and explain how a print or online dictionary helped you decide.

1.	1. recieve	CORRECT	ERROR
2.	2. calendar	CORRECT	ERROR
3.	3. necessary	CORRECT	ERROR
4.	4. definately	CORRECT	ERROR
5.	5. separate	CORRECT	ERROR
6.	6. tomorrow	CORRECT	ERROR
7.	7. environment	CORRECT	ERROR
8.	8. libary	CORRECT	ERROR

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 correctly spelled word and one new misspelled word that are not on this page; use a print or online dictionary to check both.

CORRECT _____

ERROR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one ERROR from Part 1, write its correct spelling, and name the dictionary entry you checked to confirm it.

ANSWER KEY # Spelling Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. recieve	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is receive.
2	2. calendar	**CORRECT**	Calendar matches the dictionary spelling.
3	3. necessary	**CORRECT**	Necessary matches the dictionary spelling.
4	4. definately	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is definitely.
5	5. separate	**CORRECT**	Separate matches the dictionary spelling.
6	6. tomorrow	**CORRECT**	Tomorrow matches the dictionary spelling.
7	7. environment	**CORRECT**	Environment matches the dictionary spelling.
8	8. libary	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is library.

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)

- **CORRECT**: bicycle
- **ERROR**: bicycel

Challenge: Item 1: receive. I checked the dictionary entry for receive.

For Part 2, accept explanations that compare each chosen item with a dictionary entry. For example, a student could say item 1 is an error because the dictionary spells it receive, and item 2 is correct because it matches the entry for calendar.