Spelling Detectives

Choose the check that helps you fix each error.

L.6.2.b "Demonstrate appropriate use of strategies to identify and correct spelling errors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONTEXT CHECK

Sometimes a word is spelled correctly but is the wrong word for the sentence. Read the sentence for meaning to find the error.

The knight lasted all evening. The sentence needs *night*.

DICTIONARY CHECK

Sometimes a word has letters missing, added, or out of order. Look it up in a dictionary to find the correct spelling.

The scientist recorded the temprature. A dictionary shows *temperature*.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered sentence, circle the best first check for the underlined error, then choose two items and explain how you knew which check fit each one.

1. The dog wagged its tale. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

2. We must protect the enviroment. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

3. Our class visited the musuem. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

4. Please right your name on the form. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

5. We ate desert after dinner. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

6. She made a decison. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

7. The mountain disapeared behind clouds. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

8. The boat sailed across the see. CONTEXT DICTIONARY

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 two new sentences with one underlined spelling error each, one that needs a context check and one that needs a dictionary check.

CONTEXT _____

DICTIONARY _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with two underlined errors, one for each check, then give both corrections.

ANSWER KEY

Spelling Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The dog wagged its tale.	**CONTEXT**	Tale is a real word, but tail fits the sentence.
2	We must protect the enviroment.	**DICTIONARY**	Enviroment is misspelled; the correct spelling is environment.
3	Our class visited the musuem.	**DICTIONARY**	Musuem is misspelled; the correct spelling is museum.
4	Please right your name on the form.	**CONTEXT**	Right is a real word, but write fits the sentence.
5	We ate desert after dinner.	**CONTEXT**	Desert is a real word, but dessert fits the sentence.
6	She made a decison.	**DICTIONARY**	Decison is misspelled; the correct spelling is decision.
7	The mountain disapeared behind clouds.	**DICTIONARY**	Disapeared is misspelled; the correct spelling is disappeared.
8	The boat sailed across the see.	**CONTEXT**	See is a real word, but sea fits the sentence.

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)

- **CONTEXT**: The sun of six and four is ten.
- **DICTIONARY**: The storm caused loud thundar.

Challenge: The principle announced the schedual. Corrections: principal, schedule.

For Part 2, explanations should identify whether the underlined word is a real word that does not fit or a misspelled word. Part 3 sample corrections are sum and thunder.