Waterworks Word Hunt

Use reference entries and context to pin down precise meanings.

L.7.4.c "Consult print and digital reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline minute, current, record, and conduct where they describe the waterworks. In the reference entries, circle the pronunciation and meaning that fit each use.

Notes from the Old Waterworks

1. At the old waterworks, Leena stopped beside a gate with a minute crack no wider than a thread. Water pushed through it in a thin line. Downstream, she watched the current tug at a floating leaf. Her pocket dictionary listed minute as /MIN-it/, a unit of time, or /my-NOOT/, extremely small. For current, it listed /KUR-ent/, either a flow of water or air, or an adjective meaning belonging to the present time. Leena left space in her notebook to choose the meanings that fit the scene.

2. Inside the control room, a metal plate told visitors to record the water level each morning. Leena found a faded chart of past measurements on the wall. A label explained that copper wires conduct electricity to a warning light when the gate rises. In a digital dictionary, record appeared as /REK-erd/, a stored account, and /ri-KORD/, to make an account. Conduct appeared as /KON-dukt/, a person's behavior, and /kun-DUKT/, to carry heat or electricity. Leena checked the plate and label again before making notes.

3. At home, Leena checked another unfamiliar word: bass. A museum sign mentioned bass swimming near the gate. Her print dictionary gave /BASS/, rhyming with mass, for a fish and /BASE/, rhyming with face, for a low musical sound. She selected the fish meaning because the sign described animals in the water. A digital dictionary let her hear both pronunciations. Leena added a note to her page: check the entry, listen if possible, then reread the sentence to see which meaning fits.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which pronunciation and meaning of minute fit the crack? Give a clue from the passage.

2. Which meaning of current fits the leaf? Give a clue from the passage.

3. Which pronunciation and meaning of record fit the instruction on the metal plate? Give a clue from the passage.

4. Which pronunciation and meaning of conduct fit the label about copper wires? Give a clue from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a word not used in the passage that has two dictionary meanings or pronunciations. Consult a print or digital dictionary, then write your own sentence with the word, give both meanings and their pronunciations if they differ, and explain which meaning fits your sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Waterworks Word Hunt

GRADE 7 · L.7.4.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline minute, current, record, and conduct where they describe the waterworks. In the reference entries, circle the pronunciation and meaning that fit each use. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which pronunciation and meaning of minute fit the crack? Give a clue from the passage.	**/my-NOOT/, extremely small. The crack is no wider than a thread.**
2	Which meaning of current fits the leaf? Give a clue from the passage.	**A flow of water or air. The leaf is downstream, and the current tugs at it.**
3	Which pronunciation and meaning of record fit the instruction on the metal plate? Give a clue from the passage.	**/ri-KORD/, to make an account. Visitors are told to record the water level each morning.**
4	Which pronunciation and meaning of conduct fit the label about copper wires? Give a clue from the passage.	**/kun-DUKT/, to carry heat or electricity. The wires carry electricity to a warning light.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The guide will lead us through the cave. My dictionary lists lead (/LEED/) as “to guide” and lead (/LED/) as “a heavy metal.” In my sentence, lead means “to guide” because the guide is showing people where to go.

Accept equivalent pronunciation guides and precise meanings supported by the passage. For Your Turn, check that the student used a word absent from the passage and included two dictionary meanings, any differing pronunciations, an original sentence, and a context-based explanation.