Words on Air

Use reference entries to interpret a studio log.

L.9-10.4.c "Consult general and specialized reference materials to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline bass on the track label and draft, cue, and gain in the studio instructions, then circle the reference detail that helps you interpret each word.

The Hiss in the Studio

1. At the school radio station, a sudden hiss swallowed the opening of a live drama. Mara checked the studio monitor while the actors waited behind the glass. A desk dictionary offered two pronunciations for bass: BASS, rhyming with mass, for a freshwater fish, and BASE, rhyming with face, for the low range of musical sound. Mara had seen the word on a track marked "bass solo," but she did not trust its spelling to tell her how to say it. The dictionary also listed monitor as a noun for a display or speaker and a verb meaning to check regularly.

2. On the console, a note read, "Draft a new cue for the thunder effect." Mara opened the desk dictionary again. It listed draft as a noun for an early version of a document, a noun for a current of air, and a verb meaning to prepare an initial version. It listed cue as a noun for a signal to begin and a verb meaning to give such a signal. Mara wrote the note in her log without labeling either word. She wanted the actors to hear the thunder at exactly the right moment.

3. The hiss remained, so Mara consulted an audio glossary rather than relying on the desk dictionary alone. The desk dictionary defined gain broadly as an increase or something obtained. The audio glossary narrowed gain to the amount a device boosts an audio signal. Mara found this instruction beside a knob: "Reduce the gain on the microphone channel before the next scene." She also checked attenuate. The desk dictionary said "make weaker"; the audio glossary specified reducing a signal's strength. That distinction mattered because she needed to change the recording, not quiet the actors' voices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How should Mara pronounce bass on the track label? Use the dictionary entries to explain your choice.

2. What part of speech is draft in the console note? Which dictionary meaning fits?

3. What part of speech is cue in the console note, and what does it mean there?

4. What does gain mean in the knob instruction? Why is the audio glossary more useful here than the desk dictionary?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two original sentences set outside a radio station, using monitor once as a noun and once as a verb. Then write one sentence explaining how the desk dictionary entries support your choices.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline bass on the track label and draft, cue, and gain in the studio instructions, then circle the reference detail that helps you interpret each word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How should Mara pronounce bass on the track label? Use the dictionary entries to explain your choice.	**BASE, rhyming with face, because the label refers to low musical sound, not a fish.**
2	What part of speech is draft in the console note? Which dictionary meaning fits?	**Draft is a verb meaning to prepare an initial version.**
3	What part of speech is cue in the console note, and what does it mean there?	**Cue is a noun meaning a signal to begin.**
4	What does gain mean in the knob instruction? Why is the audio glossary more useful here than the desk dictionary?	**Gain is the amount the device boosts the microphone's audio signal. The audio glossary gives the precise technical meaning needed to interpret the knob instruction.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The nurse glanced at the heart monitor beside the bed. She will monitor the patient's pulse during the test. The dictionary identifies monitor as a device when it is a noun and as regular checking when it is a verb.

Accept equivalent explanations grounded in the reference entries. For the open task, check that the two uses of monitor have different parts of speech and that the explanation identifies both meanings.