

Root Clue Detectives

Use a word you know to unlock a new word.

2L4.c "Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., addition, additional)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

KNOWN ROOT HELPS

The known word is a root in the new word. It helps you figure out what the new word means.

You know *sing*. A *singer* is a person who sings.

KNOWN ROOT DOES NOT HELP

The words may look alike, but the known word does not help explain the new word.

You know *pet*, but a *petal* is part of a flower, not a pet.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each pair, circle ROOT CLUE or NO CLUE, then pick two pairs and tell how the known word did or did not help you.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Known word: <i>paint</i>
New word: <i>painter</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 2. | Known word: <i>kind</i>
New word: <i>kindness</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 3. | Known word: <i>car</i>
New word: <i>carpet</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 4. | Known word: <i>read</i>
New word: <i>reader</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 5. | Known word: <i>book</i>
New word: <i>bucket</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 6. | Known word: <i>plan</i>
New word: <i>planet</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 7. | Known word: <i>help</i>
New word: <i>helpful</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 8. | Known word: <i>jump</i>
New word: <i>jumping</i> | ☐ ROOT CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |

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 pair for ROOT CLUE and one pair for NO CLUE.

ROOT CLUE

NO CLUE

CHALLENGE

Choose a ROOT CLUE pair and write a sentence that tells what the new word means.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Known word: <i>paint</i> New word: <i>painter</i>	ROOT CLUE	A painter is a person who paints.
2	Known word: <i>kind</i> New word: <i>kindness</i>	ROOT CLUE	Kindness means being kind.
3	Known word: <i>car</i> New word: <i>carpet</i>	NO CLUE	A carpet is not related to a car.
4	Known word: <i>read</i> New word: <i>reader</i>	ROOT CLUE	A reader is a person who reads.
5	Known word: <i>book</i> New word: <i>bucket</i>	NO CLUE	A bucket is not related to a book.
6	Known word: <i>plan</i> New word: <i>planet</i>	NO CLUE	A planet is not related to a plan.
7	Known word: <i>help</i> New word: <i>helpful</i>	ROOT CLUE	Helpful means able to help.
8	Known word: <i>jump</i> New word: <i>jumping</i>	ROOT CLUE	Jumping means doing jumps.

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)

- **ROOT CLUE:** Known word: *bake*. New word: *baker*.
- **NO CLUE:** Known word: *lip*. New word: *liquid*.

Challenge: A swimmer is a person who swims.

Answers: 1 ROOT CLUE, 2 ROOT CLUE, 3 NO CLUE, 4 ROOT CLUE, 5 NO CLUE, 6 NO CLUE, 7 ROOT CLUE, 8 ROOT CLUE. In Part 2, students should name the known root and explain whether it helps with the new word's meaning.