

Word Part Detectives

Use small words to check a compound word's meaning.

2L4.d "Use knowledge of the meaning of individual words to predict the meaning of compound words (e.g., birdhouse, lighthouse, housefly; bookshelf, notebook, bookmark)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

FITS THE WORDS

The meaning matches both smaller words in the compound word.

pancake means a cake cooked in a pan.

DOES NOT FIT

The meaning does not match the smaller words in the compound word.

pancake means a pan that holds cakes.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each meaning, circle FITS or DOES NOT, then choose two items and tell how the smaller words helped you decide.

1. **backpack**: a pack worn on your back

FITS

DOES NOT

2. **haircut**: cutting someone's hair

FITS

DOES NOT

3. **bathtub**: a tub for bats

FITS

DOES NOT

4. **playground**: ground where children play

FITS

DOES NOT

5. **classroom**: a room shaped like a class

FITS

DOES NOT

6. **football**: a ball made from a foot

FITS

DOES NOT

7. **mailbox**: a box that holds mail

FITS

DOES NOT

8. **bedtime**: time to go to bed

FITS

DOES NOT

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 compound word and meaning that FITS the words. Then write one compound word and meaning that DOES NOT fit the words.

FITS _____

DOES NOT _____

CHALLENGE

Use **snow** and **man** to make a compound word. Write its meaning, then name the two smaller words.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	backpack: a pack worn on your back	FITS	Back and pack both help explain a pack carried on a person's back.
2	haircut: cutting someone's hair	FITS	Hair and cut both match the meaning.
3	bathtub: a tub for bats	DOES NOT	A bathtub is a tub used for bathing, not a tub for bats.
4	playground: ground where children play	FITS	Play and ground both match the meaning.
5	classroom: a room shaped like a class	DOES NOT	A classroom is a room where a class learns, not a room shaped like a class.
6	football: a ball made from a foot	DOES NOT	A football is not made from a foot.
7	mailbox: a box that holds mail	FITS	Mail and box both match the meaning.
8	bedtime: time to go to bed	FITS	Bed and time both match the meaning.

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)

- **FITS: sunflower** means a flower that looks like the sun.
- **DOES NOT: sunflower** means a flower made of sun.

Challenge: snowman means a figure made of snow. The smaller words are snow and man.

Accept clear student explanations that connect both smaller words to the correct meaning. For Part 3, accept other accurate compound words and reasonable incorrect meanings for DOES NOT.