

Context Clue Detectives

Sort sentences by whether they reveal a word's meaning.

3L4.a "Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLUE GIVEN

Nearby words tell what the unfamiliar word means.
Use those words to make a smart guess.

The *enormous* pumpkin was so huge that two children had to carry it.

NO CLUE

The sentence does not give enough information to figure out the unfamiliar word. You would need more words or another source.

We saw an *enormous* pumpkin.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle CLUE or NO CLUE, then choose two items and explain how the sentence gave a clue or did not give enough information.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | 1. The icy sidewalk was <i>slick</i> , so Dad walked carefully to keep from falling. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 2. | 2. Mia was <i>famished</i> because she had not eaten since breakfast, so she quickly made a sandwich. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 3. | 3. The <i>crimson</i> flag waved above the school. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 4. | 4. The rabbit was <i>timid</i> , hiding behind the bush when it heard a loud bark. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 5. | 5. We saw a <i>peculiar</i> animal. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 6. | 6. Grandpa put the <i>parcel</i> on the table. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 7. | 7. The <i>glimmer</i> from the flashlight was a small, unsteady light. | ☐ CLUE | ☐ NO CLUE |
| 8. | 8. After the long hike, Nia was <i>weary</i> , or very tired. | ☐ 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 new sentence for CLUE and one new sentence for NO CLUE. Put an unfamiliar word in each sentence.

CLUE _____

NO CLUE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence mini-passage that gives two clues to the meaning of one unfamiliar word. Underline the word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The icy sidewalk was <i>slick</i> , so Dad walked carefully to keep from falling.	CLUE	Icy, carefully, and falling show that slick means slippery.
2	2. Mia was <i>famished</i> because she had not eaten since breakfast, so she quickly made a sandwich.	CLUE	Had not eaten and made a sandwich show that famished means very hungry.
3	3. The <i>crimson</i> flag waved above the school.	NO CLUE	The sentence gives no meaning clue for crimson.
4	4. The rabbit was <i>timid</i> , hiding behind the bush when it heard a loud bark.	CLUE	Hiding from the bark shows that timid means shy or easily frightened.
5	5. We saw a <i>peculiar</i> animal.	NO CLUE	The sentence gives no meaning clue for peculiar.
6	6. Grandpa put the <i>parcel</i> on the table.	NO CLUE	The sentence gives no meaning clue for parcel.
7	7. The <i>glimmer</i> from the flashlight was a small, unsteady light.	CLUE	Small, unsteady light tells what glimmer means.
8	8. After the long hike, Nia was <i>weary</i> , or very tired.	CLUE	The words or very tired directly explain weary.

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)

- **CLUE:** The *swift* bike raced past us at high speed.
- **NO CLUE:** The *ancient* statue stood in the hall.

Challenge: The cave was gloomy, with little light and deep shadows. We used a flashlight to see the path. Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are CLUE. Items 3, 5, and 6 are NO CLUE. For Part 2, accept explanations that name helpful nearby words or state that the sentence does not explain the target word.