

# Root Word Sleuth

Use a word you know to investigate a new word.

**3L4.c** "Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., company, companion)."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## SAME ROOT

The known word and the new word have the same root. The known word can help you figure out the new word.

Known word: pack. New word: unpack. Unpack means to take things out of a pack.

## NO SAME ROOT

The known word and the new word do not have the same root. The known word cannot help you figure out the new word.

Known word: ham. New word: hammer. Ham does not help explain hammer.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle ROOT MATCH or NO MATCH for each pair, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain how the known word helps or does not help with the new word.

1. 1. Known word: help. New word: helpful.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

2. 2. Known word: pet. New word: petal.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

3. 3. Known word: color. New word: colorful.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

4. 4. Known word: hope. New word: hopeful.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

5. 5. Known word: corn. New word: corner.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

6. 6. Known word: hear. New word: heart.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

7. 7. Known word: pain. New word: painless.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

8. 8. Known word: farm. New word: farmer.

ROOT MATCH

NO MATCH

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 known word and new word pair for ROOT MATCH. Then write one known word and new word pair for NO MATCH.

ROOT MATCH \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NO MATCH \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHALLENGE**

Write a sentence using a word with a root clue. Underline its root word and explain what the whole word means.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 1 • SORT**

| # | ITEM                                      | CATEGORY          | WHY                                                                  |
|---|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1. Known word: help. New word: helpful.   | <b>ROOT MATCH</b> | Help is the root in helpful, so help gives a clue to the meaning.    |
| 2 | 2. Known word: pet. New word: petal.      | <b>NO MATCH</b>   | Pet and petal do not share a root.                                   |
| 3 | 3. Known word: color. New word: colorful. | <b>ROOT MATCH</b> | Color is the root in colorful, so color gives a clue to the meaning. |
| 4 | 4. Known word: hope. New word: hopeful.   | <b>ROOT MATCH</b> | Hope is the root in hopeful, so hope gives a clue to the meaning.    |
| 5 | 5. Known word: corn. New word: corner.    | <b>NO MATCH</b>   | Corn and corner do not share a root.                                 |
| 6 | 6. Known word: hear. New word: heart.     | <b>NO MATCH</b>   | Hear and heart do not share a root.                                  |
| 7 | 7. Known word: pain. New word: painless.  | <b>ROOT MATCH</b> | Pain is the root in painless, so pain gives a clue to the meaning.   |
| 8 | 8. Known word: farm. New word: farmer.    | <b>ROOT MATCH</b> | Farm is the root in farmer, so farm gives a clue to 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)**

- **ROOT MATCH:** Known word: read. New word: reader. A reader is a person who reads.
- **NO MATCH:** Known word: bee. New word: beef. Bee does not help explain beef.

**Challenge:** The reader chose a book. The root read means to look at words, so reader means a person who reads.

Part 1 answers are 1 ROOT MATCH, 2 NO MATCH, 3 ROOT MATCH, 4 ROOT MATCH, 5 NO MATCH, 6 NO MATCH, 7 ROOT MATCH, and 8 ROOT MATCH. In Part 2, accept explanations that correctly connect a shared root to meaning or state that similar letters do not make words share a root.