

How Sure?

Sort words by how certain the speaker is.

3L5.c "Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

KNOWS FOR SURE

The speaker has enough proof to be sure.

Mr. Lee proved the bridge was safe by checking it.

STILL UNSURE

The speaker does not know for sure. The speaker may be guessing, hearing news, or thinking about what might happen.

Ava guessed that her aunt had baked muffins.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle KNOWS or UNSURE for each sentence, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain what makes each choice fit.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kai knew the soup was salty after tasting it. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 2. Lena wondered whether the storm would reach town. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 3. Omar heard that the museum might open late. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 4. Pia was sure the gate was locked after she turned the key and pulled it. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 5. Ben suspected his missing cap was in the car. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 6. Rosa knew the answer because she solved the problem. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 7. Toby knew his plant needed water after he felt the dry soil. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |
| 8. Ivy believed the puppy would learn the trick. | ☐ KNOWS | ☐ UNSURE |

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 KNOWS and one new sentence for UNSURE.

KNOWS _____

UNSURE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that shows a person changing from unsure to sure. Use two certainty words.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Kai knew the soup was salty after tasting it.	KNOWS	Tasting the soup gives Kai proof.
2	Lena wondered whether the storm would reach town.	UNSURE	Wondered shows that Lena does not know.
3	Omar heard that the museum might open late.	UNSURE	Heard is information from someone else, not proof.
4	Pia was sure the gate was locked after she turned the key and pulled it.	KNOWS	Pia checked the gate herself.
5	Ben suspected his missing cap was in the car.	UNSURE	Suspected means Ben has an idea but is not sure.
6	Rosa knew the answer because she solved the problem.	KNOWS	Solving the problem gives Rosa proof.
7	Toby knew his plant needed water after he felt the dry soil.	KNOWS	Feeling dry soil gives Toby evidence.
8	Ivy believed the puppy would learn the trick.	UNSURE	Believed shows Ivy thinks it will happen but does not know.

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)

- **KNOWS:** I knew the kettle was hot because steam rose from it.
- **UNSURE:** I wondered if my cousin would bring her skateboard.

Challenge: At first, I suspected the turtle was under the porch, but I knew it was there when I saw its shell.

Sort answers are 1 KNOWS, 2 UNSURE, 3 UNSURE, 4 KNOWS, 5 UNSURE, 6 KNOWS, 7 KNOWS, 8 UNSURE. For Part 2, accept explanations that name proof or explain that the speaker is guessing, hearing information, believing, suspecting, or wondering.