

Clue or Look Up

Choose the best strategy for finding a word's meaning.

4L4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

USE CONTEXT

Use context when nearby words tell what the word means. Look for a definition, synonym, example, or contrast in the sentence.

A **nocturnal** animal is awake at night.

LOOK IT UP

Look in a dictionary or glossary when the sentence does not give enough clues. Read the definition that fits the sentence.

We visited a **marina**.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CONTEXT or LOOK UP for each item; then, in Part 2, pick two items, one from each category, and explain the clue you used or why you would need a dictionary or glossary.

1. 1. The **fragile** vase could break easily.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

2. 2. During the drought, the **arid** land was very dry.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

3. 3. Maya put the **parcel** on the shelf.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

4. 4. The puppy was **famished**, or extremely hungry.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

5. 5. The scientist studied a **larva**.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

6. 6. The ranger found **lichen** near the trail.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

7. 7. The **massive** whale was huge.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

8. 8. The actor entered the **foyer**.

CONTEXT

LOOK UP

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 CONTEXT and one new sentence for LOOK UP. Bold or underline the word whose meaning you are trying to find.

CONTEXT _____

LOOK UP _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using a word with more than one meaning. Add and underline enough context clues to show which meaning you mean.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The fragile vase could break easily.	CONTEXT	The words “could break easily” define fragile.
2	2. During the drought, the arid land was very dry.	CONTEXT	The words “very dry” define arid.
3	3. Maya put the parcel on the shelf.	LOOK UP	The sentence does not explain what parcel means.
4	4. The puppy was famished , or extremely hungry.	CONTEXT	The phrase “or extremely hungry” defines famished.
5	5. The scientist studied a larva .	LOOK UP	The sentence does not explain what larva means.
6	6. The ranger found lichen near the trail.	LOOK UP	The sentence does not give a meaning for lichen.
7	7. The massive whale was huge.	CONTEXT	The word “huge” is a synonym for massive.
8	8. The actor entered the foyer .	LOOK UP	The sentence does not explain what foyer means.

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)

- **CONTEXT:** The **brisk** wind felt cold and quick.
- **LOOK UP:** The **canal** curved through town.

Challenge: The **bat** flew out of the cave at dusk, its wings beating above us.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name a defining word or phrase for a CONTEXT item. For a LOOK UP item, students should explain that the sentence does not provide a meaning, so a dictionary or glossary is needed.