

Clue Pathways

Sort context clues by how they reveal meaning.

5L4.a "Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CAUSE OR EFFECT CLUE

A cause or effect clue shows what makes something happen or what happens because of it. Use that result to help figure out the word.

The rope was **frayed**, so its loose threads scratched Maya's hands.

COMPARISON CLUE

A comparison clue connects an unfamiliar word to something you know. Look for words such as like, unlike, compared with, or as.

Unlike the **silent** library, the cafeteria buzzed with voices.

1 SORT 8 items

Circle RESULT or COMPARE for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain how nearby words show each clue type.

- | | | |
|---|--------|---------|
| 1. Unlike her timid brother, Nia spoke first and asked many questions. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 2. Like a sponge, the porous rock soaked up rainwater. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 3. The icy road made the bus skid into a snowbank. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 4. Unlike the huge, empty hall, the small cabin felt cozy beside the fire. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 5. The loud alarm startled the sleeping dog, causing it to jump up. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 6. Since the drought lasted for months, the pond became shallow. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 7. Compared with rough tree bark, the smooth shell felt even under Leo's fingers. | RESULT | COMPARE |
| 8. Like a runner waiting for a race to begin, the puppy was eager for its walk. | RESULT | COMPARE |

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 with a cause or effect clue and one new sentence with a comparison clue. Underline the unfamiliar word in each sentence.

RESULT

COMPARE

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with an unfamiliar word that has both a cause or effect clue and a comparison clue. Then explain the word's meaning and name both clues.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Unlike her timid brother, Nia spoke first and asked many questions.	COMPARE	The contrast with Nia's bold actions suggests timid means shy or not confident.
2	Like a sponge, the porous rock soaked up rainwater.	COMPARE	The rock is compared to a sponge, showing that porous means full of tiny spaces that absorb water.
3	The icy road made the bus skid into a snowbank.	RESULT	The icy road caused the bus to skid, suggesting skid means slide out of control.
4	Unlike the huge, empty hall, the small cabin felt cozy beside the fire.	COMPARE	The cabin is contrasted with a huge, empty hall, suggesting cozy means warm and comfortable.
5	The loud alarm startled the sleeping dog, causing it to jump up.	RESULT	The alarm caused the dog to jump, suggesting startled means suddenly surprised or frightened.
6	Since the drought lasted for months, the pond became shallow.	RESULT	The drought caused less water in the pond, suggesting shallow means not deep.
7	Compared with rough tree bark, the smooth shell felt even under Leo's fingers.	COMPARE	The shell is compared with rough bark, suggesting smooth means even and not rough.
8	Like a runner waiting for a race to begin, the puppy was eager for its walk.	COMPARE	The puppy is compared to a ready runner, suggesting eager means excited and ready.

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)

- **RESULT:** The battery died, so the flashlight became **dim** and gave little light.
- **COMPARE:** Unlike a sturdy boulder, the **delicate** glass ornament could break with one small tap.

Challenge: Unlike the sturdy metal bowl, the **brittle** vase cracked when it fell from the shelf. Brittle means easy to break. The cause or effect clue is that it cracked when it fell. The comparison clue is unlike the sturdy metal bowl.

Accept RESULT when the surrounding text shows a cause or what happened because of something. Accept COMPARE when the surrounding text compares or contrasts the unfamiliar word with something familiar.