

Clue or Check

Decide when a sentence tells you enough.

5L4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLUE IN THE SENTENCE

Use context when nearby words explain the unfamiliar word or give a strong hint about its meaning.

I **murmured**, or spoke very quietly, during the movie.

LOOK IT UP

Use a dictionary, glossary, or other reference when the sentence does not give enough information to figure out the word.

The novel described a **quarry** near the town.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CONTEXT or REFERENCE for each item, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain which words gave a clue or why you would look the word up.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. The path was treacherous , so slippery and dangerous that hikers moved slowly. | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 2. Mina was reluctant , or unwilling, to speak first. | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 3. The article mentioned a tariff . | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 4. The twins were famished , meaning extremely hungry, after practice. | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 5. The scientist described a molecule during the lecture. | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 6. Our class read about photosynthesis today. | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 7. The old bridge was fragile , so it could break easily. | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |
| 8. The mayor discussed the city's ordinance . | <input type="button" value="CONTEXT"/> | <input type="button" value="REFERENCE"/> |

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 sentence for CONTEXT that gives a clue to a word's meaning, and one sentence for REFERENCE that does not give enough clues.

CONTEXT _____

REFERENCE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using **bat** that makes its meaning clear through context, then state the meaning you meant.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The path was treacherous , so slippery and dangerous that hikers moved slowly.	CONTEXT	"Slippery and dangerous" directly explains treacherous.
2	Mina was reluctant , or unwilling, to speak first.	CONTEXT	"Unwilling" is a direct definition.
3	The article mentioned a tariff .	REFERENCE	The sentence gives no meaning clue for tariff.
4	The twins were famished , meaning extremely hungry, after practice.	CONTEXT	"Extremely hungry" directly defines famished.
5	The scientist described a molecule during the lecture.	REFERENCE	The sentence does not explain molecule.
6	Our class read about photosynthesis today.	REFERENCE	The sentence gives no clue to the word's meaning.
7	The old bridge was fragile , so it could break easily.	CONTEXT	"Could break easily" explains fragile.
8	The mayor discussed the city's ordinance .	REFERENCE	The sentence does not provide enough information to define ordinance.

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 **frigid** water was so cold that ice formed along the edge.
- **REFERENCE:** The class studied the **feudal** system in history.

Challenge: Luis swung the wooden bat and hit the baseball over the fence. I meant a piece of sports equipment used to hit a ball.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are CONTEXT. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are REFERENCE. Accept Part 2 explanations that identify a direct definition, synonym, or description, or that correctly explain that no useful clue is given.