

Clue or Not

Decide when nearby words reveal a meaning.

7L4.a "Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase."

NAME _____

DATE _____

ENOUGH CLUES

Nearby words show what the bold word means. Use those details to make a reasonable meaning.

The **brittle** cookie crumbled into tiny pieces when I picked it up.

NOT ENOUGH CLUES

Nearby words do not show enough to tell what the bold word means. You would need more context or another source.

Omar wrote the word **yield** on the board.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each sentence, circle CLEAR or UNCLEAR, then choose two items and explain which nearby words did, or did not, reveal the bold word's meaning.

- | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | After skipping lunch, Eli was famished and finished two full plates of pasta. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 2. | The spy tried to conceal the map by slipping it under a loose floorboard. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 3. | During the meeting, Rosa mentioned merit . | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 4. | The abandoned house was desolate , with broken windows and no people for miles. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 5. | Tariq put the crane near the window. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 6. | Mr. Chen pointed to the current during class. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 7. | Because the path was steep and icy, the hikers moved cautiously . | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |
| 8. | The committee reached a unanimous decision, so every member voted the same way. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="UNCLEAR"/> |

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 with enough context to reveal the meaning of an underlined word, and one sentence with too little context to reveal the meaning of an underlined word.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

CHALLENGE

Use the same multiple-meaning word in two sentences. Add clear context clues so each sentence shows a different meaning of the word.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After skipping lunch, Eli was famished and finished two full plates of pasta.	CLEAR	Skipping lunch and eating two full plates show that famished means very hungry.
2	The spy tried to conceal the map by slipping it under a loose floorboard.	CLEAR	Slipping the map under the floorboard shows that conceal means hide.
3	During the meeting, Rosa mentioned merit .	UNCLEAR	The sentence does not provide enough details to determine the precise meaning of merit.
4	The abandoned house was desolate , with broken windows and no people for miles.	CLEAR	The broken windows and absence of people show that desolate means empty, lonely, or deserted.
5	Tariq put the crane near the window.	UNCLEAR	The context does not show whether crane means a bird, a machine, or another meaning.
6	Mr. Chen pointed to the current during class.	UNCLEAR	The context does not show whether current means flowing water, electricity, or something happening now.
7	Because the path was steep and icy, the hikers moved cautiously .	CLEAR	A steep, icy path shows that cautiously means carefully.
8	The committee reached a unanimous decision, so every member voted the same way.	CLEAR	Every member voting the same way shows that unanimous means agreed on by everyone.

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)

- **CLEAR:** CLEAR example: The **fragile** glass could break easily, so I carried it carefully.
- **UNCLEAR:** UNCLEAR example: The article described a **colony**.

Challenge: The **bark** of the dog echoed across the yard. The rough **bark** of the oak tree scratched my hand.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are CLEAR. Items 3, 5, and 6 are UNCLEAR because the surrounding words do not identify one precise meaning.