

Check the Clue

Use context and dictionary evidence to test a word meaning.

7L4.d "Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

VERIFIED MEANING

Your inferred meaning matches evidence from the context or a dictionary. The evidence supports what you think the word means.

The brittle cookie cracked when it fell. I infer brittle means easy to break. A dictionary says brittle means hard but likely to break.

UNPROVEN MEANING

Your inferred meaning does not match the evidence, or you have not found evidence that supports it. Revise the meaning or look for stronger proof.

The lantern glowed brightly in the window. I infer glowed means made a gentle sound. The context does not support that meaning.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each preliminary meaning and its evidence, then circle VERIFIED or UNPROVEN.

- | | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | 1. Maya was reluctant to enter the icy water. I infer reluctant means unwilling. Dictionary: reluctant means hesitant or unwilling. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 2. | 2. The audience applauded after the final song. I infer applauded means showed approval. Context: people clapped and cheered. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 3. | 3. The path was steep, so we climbed slowly. I infer steep means wide and flat. Dictionary: steep means rising sharply. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 4. | 4. A rare bird landed near the pond. I infer rare means uncommon. Dictionary: rare means not common. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 5. | 5. The agile kitten leaped over the chair. I infer agile means sleepy. Context: it leaped quickly from place to place. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 6. | 6. The museum displayed an ancient vase from 2,000 years ago. I infer ancient means made of glass. Dictionary: ancient means very old. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 7. | 7. The engineer made a precise measurement. I infer precise means exact and accurate. Dictionary: precise means exact and accurate. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |
| 8. | 8. The hikers sought shelter when rain began. I infer shelter means a kind of food. Context: they entered a cave to stay dry. | <input type="button" value="VERIFIED"/> <input type="button" value="UNPROVEN"/> |

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

Part 2, PROVE IT: Pick two sort items and explain which context words or dictionary words prove your choice. Part 3, MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new example that is VERIFIED and one that is UNPROVEN.

VERIFIED

UNPROVEN

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with an unfamiliar word, infer its meaning, then use both a context clue and a dictionary definition to verify or revise your inference.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Maya was reluctant to enter the icy water. I infer reluctant means unwilling. Dictionary: reluctant means hesitant or unwilling.	VERIFIED	The dictionary definition supports unwilling.
2	2. The audience applauded after the final song. I infer applauded means showed approval. Context: people clapped and cheered.	VERIFIED	Clapping and cheering support showed approval.
3	3. The path was steep, so we climbed slowly. I infer steep means wide and flat. Dictionary: steep means rising sharply.	UNPROVEN	The dictionary definition conflicts with wide and flat.
4	4. A rare bird landed near the pond. I infer rare means uncommon. Dictionary: rare means not common.	VERIFIED	The dictionary definition matches uncommon.
5	5. The agile kitten leaped over the chair. I infer agile means sleepy. Context: it leaped quickly from place to place.	UNPROVEN	The context supports quick movement, not sleepiness.
6	6. The museum displayed an ancient vase from 2,000 years ago. I infer ancient means made of glass. Dictionary: ancient means very old.	UNPROVEN	The definition supports very old, not made of glass.
7	7. The engineer made a precise measurement. I infer precise means exact and accurate. Dictionary: precise means exact and accurate.	VERIFIED	The dictionary definition exactly supports the inference.
8	8. The hikers sought shelter when rain began. I infer shelter means a kind of food. Context: they entered a cave to stay dry.	UNPROVEN	The context supports protection from weather, not food.

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)

- **VERIFIED:** The soup had a pungent smell. I infer pungent means strong-smelling. A dictionary says pungent means having a strong smell.
- **UNPROVEN:** The runner was exhausted after the race. I infer exhausted means excited. Context: she could barely stand.

Challenge: The desert's arid air held little moisture. I infer arid means very dry. Context clue: little moisture. Dictionary: arid means extremely dry.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are VERIFIED. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are UNPROVEN; accept Part 2 explanations that point to accurate context or dictionary evidence.