

Clue Type Detectives

Sort sentences by the kind of context clue they use.

8L4.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 _____

DEFINITION CLUE

The sentence directly tells what the word means. Look for a restatement, often set off by commas or introduced with words such as *is* or *means*.

A **migratory** bird, a bird that travels seasonally, flew south.

CONTRAST CLUE

The sentence shows an opposite or a difference that helps you infer the word's meaning. Look for signal words such as *unlike*, *but*, *while*, or *rather than*.

Unlike the **fragile** vase, the sturdy bowl did not crack.

1 SORT 8 items

For Part 1, read each sentence and circle the clue type, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain which words show that clue type.

- | | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | The herpetologist , a scientist who studies reptiles and amphibians, examined the turtle. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 2. | The new hallway was spacious , with plenty of room for students to pass. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 3. | Rather than hoard the supplies, Mina shared them with everyone. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 4. | A peninsula , land surrounded by water on three sides, juts into the sea. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 5. | While the first draft was lengthy , the revised version was brief. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 6. | Unlike the eager volunteers, the reluctant students hung back. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 7. | The mechanic found a defect , a flaw that kept the engine from starting. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 8. | A reservoir is a stored supply of water, often held behind a dam. | ☐ DEFINITION | ☐ CONTRAST |

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 a Definition Clue and one sentence with a Contrast Clue. Underline the words that give the clue.

DEFINITION _____

CONTRAST _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence in which the context clue comes before the bold word, then identify whether you used a Definition Clue or a Contrast Clue.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The herpetologist , a scientist who studies reptiles and amphibians, examined the turtle.	DEFINITION	The appositive directly defines herpetologist.
2	The new hallway was spacious , with plenty of room for students to pass.	DEFINITION	The phrase plenty of room directly explains spacious.
3	Rather than hoard the supplies, Mina shared them with everyone.	CONTRAST	Sharing contrasts with keeping supplies for oneself.
4	A peninsula , land surrounded by water on three sides, juts into the sea.	DEFINITION	The phrase after the comma defines peninsula.
5	While the first draft was lengthy , the revised version was brief.	CONTRAST	Brief contrasts with lengthy.
6	Unlike the eager volunteers, the reluctant students hung back.	CONTRAST	Eager contrasts with reluctant, and hung back supports the contrast.
7	The mechanic found a defect , a flaw that kept the engine from starting.	DEFINITION	A flaw directly defines defect.
8	A reservoir is a stored supply of water, often held behind a dam.	DEFINITION	The sentence directly states the meaning of reservoir.

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)

- **DEFINITION:** The **desert**, a very dry place, can receive little rain.
- **CONTRAST:** Unlike the calm lake, the **turbulent** river churned with fast, rough water.

Challenge: DEFINITION: Active at night, the **nocturnal** fox searched for food.

Part 1 answers are 1 DEFINITION, 2 DEFINITION, 3 CONTRAST, 4 DEFINITION, 5 CONTRAST, 6 CONTRAST, 7 DEFINITION, and 8 DEFINITION. For Part 2, accept explanations that accurately point to the defining phrase or the words showing a difference.