

Meaning Check

Test a first guess with context and a dictionary meaning.

8L4.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 preliminary meaning fits the sentence and agrees with the dictionary meaning.

The glass was fragile, so Nora carried it carefully.
Preliminary meaning: easily broken. Dictionary meaning: easily broken.

UNVERIFIED MEANING

Your preliminary meaning conflicts with the sentence clues or the dictionary meaning. Revise the meaning.

Fog obscured the bridge. Preliminary meaning: made easy to see. Dictionary meaning: hid from view.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1: Read each sentence, preliminary meaning, and dictionary meaning, then circle MATCHES or MISMATCH; Part 2: Choose two items and explain how the context and dictionary meaning helped you decide.

The mayor's apology was sincere, not a performance for cameras.

1. Preliminary meaning: honest. Dictionary meaning: free from pretense or deceit.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

2. Her response was brief because class was ending. Preliminary meaning: short. Dictionary meaning: lasting only a short time.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

3. After sprinting up the hill, Luis was exhausted. Preliminary meaning: excited. Dictionary meaning: very tired.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

4. The museum displayed an ancient vase from Greece. Preliminary meaning: very old. Dictionary meaning: belonging to the distant past.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

5. The kitten was reluctant to leave its warm blanket. Preliminary meaning: eager. Dictionary meaning: unwilling or hesitant.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

The path was rugged, so hikers stepped carefully over rocks.

6. Preliminary meaning: flat and smooth. Dictionary meaning: rough and uneven.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

7. The witness gave a precise time for the event. Preliminary meaning: exact. Dictionary meaning: clearly expressed and exact.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

8. The crowd began to disperse after the concert. Preliminary meaning: gather together. Dictionary meaning: scatter in different directions.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

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 MATCHES example and one new MISMATCH example. In each example, include a sentence, a preliminary meaning, and a dictionary meaning.

MATCHES

MISMATCH

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence using a multiple-meaning word that could cause a wrong first guess. Then give the wrong preliminary meaning, the dictionary meaning that fits the sentence, and a revised meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The mayor's apology was <u>sincere</u> , not a performance for cameras. Preliminary meaning: honest. Dictionary meaning: free from pretense or deceit.	MATCHES	Sincere means honest and not pretending.
2	Her response was <u>brief</u> because class was ending. Preliminary meaning: short. Dictionary meaning: lasting only a short time.	MATCHES	Brief means short in length or time.
3	After sprinting up the hill, Luis was <u>exhausted</u> . Preliminary meaning: excited. Dictionary meaning: very tired.	MISMATCH	Exhausted means very tired, not excited.
4	The museum displayed an <u>ancient</u> vase from Greece. Preliminary meaning: very old. Dictionary meaning: belonging to the distant past.	MATCHES	Ancient means very old or from long ago.
5	The kitten was <u>reluctant</u> to leave its warm blanket. Preliminary meaning: eager. Dictionary meaning: unwilling or hesitant.	MISMATCH	Reluctant means unwilling or hesitant.
6	The path was <u>rugged</u> , so hikers stepped carefully over rocks. Preliminary meaning: flat and smooth. Dictionary meaning: rough and uneven.	MISMATCH	Rugged means rough and uneven.
7	The witness gave a <u>precise</u> time for the event. Preliminary meaning: exact. Dictionary meaning: clearly expressed and exact.	MATCHES	Precise means exact.
8	The crowd began to <u>disperse</u> after the concert. Preliminary meaning: gather together. Dictionary meaning: scatter in different directions.	MISMATCH	Disperse means to scatter, not gather.

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)

- **MATCHES:** The river was shallow, so we could see stones on its bottom. Preliminary meaning: not deep. Dictionary meaning: having little depth.
- **MISMATCH:** The scientist's claim was plausible because evidence supported it. Preliminary meaning: impossible to believe. Dictionary meaning: seeming reasonable or likely.

Challenge: The coach said the team would field ten players. Wrong preliminary meaning: a grassy area. Dictionary meaning: to select and send out players for a game. Revised meaning: put players into the game.

Part 1 answers are shown in the category field for each item. For Part 2, students should point to a context clue and compare the preliminary meaning with the dictionary meaning.