

Clue or Lookup?

Choose the best strategy for finding a word's meaning.

8L4 "Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CONTEXT CLUES

Choose CONTEXT when nearby words give enough information to figure out the italicized word. Look for a definition, example, contrast, or cause and effect clue.

The lantern gave only a little light, making the cave *dim*.

DICTIONARY NEEDED

Choose DICTIONARY when the sentence does not give enough information to determine the italicized word's exact meaning. Use a dictionary or another reliable reference.

Nora admired the *intricate* design.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle CONTEXT or DICTIONARY, then choose two items and explain which clues, or lack of clues, helped you decide.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | After hours without rain, the dry soil was <i>parched</i> , or extremely thirsty for water. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 2. | Mina <i>reluctantly</i> joined the hike, even though she did not want to go. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 3. | The museum displayed an <i>ornate</i> clock. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 4. | The crew used a rope to <i>hoist</i> , or lift, the crate. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 5. | The scientist recorded an <i>anomaly</i> in her notes. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 6. | The speech had a <i>solemn</i> tone. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 7. | The coach told us to <i>preserve</i> our energy by resting between races. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |
| 8. | A <i>scarce</i> supply meant only a few tickets were available. | ☐ CONTEXT | ☐ DICTIONARY |

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 sentence in which context clues reveal an italicized word's meaning. Then write one new sentence in which you would need a dictionary to find an italicized word's exact meaning.

CONTEXT _____

DICTIONARY _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one DICTIONARY sentence from Part 1, rewrite it so context clues reveal the italicized word's meaning, then state the meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	After hours without rain, the dry soil was <i>parched</i> , or extremely thirsty for water.	CONTEXT	The phrase "extremely thirsty for water" directly defines parched.
2	Mina <i>reluctantly</i> joined the hike, even though she did not want to go.	CONTEXT	The contrast clue "even though she did not want to go" shows that reluctantly means unwillingly.
3	The museum displayed an <i>ornate</i> clock.	DICTIONARY	The sentence gives no clue to the exact meaning of ornate.
4	The crew used a rope to <i>hoist</i> , or lift, the crate.	CONTEXT	The word "lift" directly defines hoist.
5	The scientist recorded an <i>anomaly</i> in her notes.	DICTIONARY	The sentence does not explain what anomaly means.
6	The speech had a <i>solemn</i> tone.	DICTIONARY	The sentence gives no definition, example, or other strong clue for solemn.
7	The coach told us to <i>preserve</i> our energy by resting between races.	CONTEXT	Resting between races shows that preserve means save or keep.
8	A <i>scarce</i> supply meant only a few tickets were available.	CONTEXT	The phrase "only a few tickets were available" shows that scarce means limited.

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 soup was *bland*, with no spices or strong flavor.
- **DICTIONARY:** The dancer showed *poise* on stage.

Challenge: The scientist recorded an *anomaly*, an unexpected result that differed from the other data. Anomaly means an unusual result.

Accept CONTEXT when students identify a valid nearby clue that supports the word's meaning. For DICTIONARY responses, students should explain that the sentence lacks enough information for an exact definition.