

Meaning Check

Test an inferred meaning against context clues.

9-10L4d "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 _____

MEANING FITS

Choose VERIFIED when the context clues support the proposed meaning. A dictionary check should confirm that meaning.

The *vivid* mural used bright colors that seemed to glow. Proposed meaning: vivid means bright and clear.

MEANING DOES NOT FIT

Choose REVISE when the context clues contradict the proposed meaning. Rethink the meaning, then check a dictionary.

The toddler was *gleeful* after receiving a puppy. Proposed meaning: gleeful means angry.

1 SORT 8 items

Part 1: Circle VERIFIED or REVISE for each proposed meaning; Part 2: choose two item numbers and explain which context clues support or contradict each proposed meaning.

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. | 1. The witness gave a <i>reluctant</i> reply only after repeated questions.
Proposed meaning: reluctant means unwilling. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 2. | 2. The scientist's <i>methodical</i> notes listed each step in order. Proposed meaning: methodical means organized and careful. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 3. | 3. The <i>torrential</i> downpour flooded several streets. Proposed meaning: torrential means gentle and small. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 4. | 4. The senator made a <i>concise</i> statement that lasted only one minute. Proposed meaning: concise means brief. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 5. | 5. The old bridge was <i>precarious</i> , so drivers were warned not to cross it. Proposed meaning: precarious means built to last for centuries. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 6. | 6. The manager <i>endorsed</i> the plan by recommending it to the board. Proposed meaning: endorsed means criticized. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 7. | 7. Thick fog <i>obscured</i> the path, so hikers could not see where to walk. Proposed meaning: obscured means hidden from view. | VERIFIED | REVISE |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 8. | 8. The mayor called for <i>frugal</i> spending and cut unnecessary purchases. Proposed meaning: frugal means spending money freely. | VERIFIED | REVISE |

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 context clue and a proposed meaning for VERIFIED, then write one sentence with a context clue and a proposed meaning for REVISE.

VERIFIED

REVISE

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a multiple-meaning word, name two possible meanings, and explain why the context does not verify either meaning.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The witness gave a <i>reluctant</i> reply only after repeated questions. Proposed meaning: reluctant means unwilling.	VERIFIED	Repeated questions suggest the witness did not want to reply.
2	2. The scientist's <i>methodical</i> notes listed each step in order. Proposed meaning: methodical means organized and careful.	VERIFIED	Listing steps in order supports an organized, careful process.
3	3. The <i>torrential</i> downpour flooded several streets. Proposed meaning: torrential means gentle and small.	REVISE	Flooding indicates very heavy rain, not gentle rain.
4	4. The senator made a <i>concise</i> statement that lasted only one minute. Proposed meaning: concise means brief.	VERIFIED	A one-minute statement is brief.
5	5. The old bridge was <i>precarious</i> , so drivers were warned not to cross it. Proposed meaning: precarious means built to last for centuries.	REVISE	The warning shows the bridge is unsafe or unstable.
6	6. The manager <i>endorsed</i> the plan by recommending it to the board. Proposed meaning: endorsed means criticized.	REVISE	Recommending a plan shows approval, not criticism.
7	7. Thick fog <i>obscured</i> the path, so hikers could not see where to walk. Proposed meaning: obscured means hidden from view.	VERIFIED	The hikers could not see the path because it was hidden.
8	8. The mayor called for <i>frugal</i> spending and cut unnecessary purchases. Proposed meaning: frugal means spending money freely.	REVISE	Cutting unnecessary purchases means spending carefully.

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 *ancient* manuscript, written centuries ago, was fragile. Proposed meaning: ancient means very old.
- **REVISE:** A *brisk* wind swept leaves quickly across the sidewalk. Proposed meaning: brisk means slow.

Challenge: Rina noticed the *current*. The word could mean a flow of water or the present time, and the context does not verify either meaning.

Sort answers: 1 VERIFIED, 2 VERIFIED, 3 REVISE, 4 VERIFIED, 5 REVISE, 6 REVISE, 7 VERIFIED, 8 REVISE. For Part 2, students should cite specific context clues and state whether those clues support or contradict the proposed meaning.