Root Word Sort

Use Greek word parts to uncover meaning.

8.4.R.3 "Students will use word parts (e.g., affixes, Greek roots, stems) to define and determine the meaning of increasingly complex words."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SOUND OR VOICE

The Greek root **phon**, sometimes written **phone**, means sound or voice. It can help you understand what a word has to do with hearing or speaking.

symphony, an extended piece of music for an orchestra

LOOKING OR OBSERVING

The word part **scope** comes from Greek and means look or examine. It can help you understand what a word has to do with observing.

kaleidoscope, a tube for viewing changing patterns

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SOUND or LOOK for each word, then choose two words and explain how their word parts helped you decide.

1.	homophone	SOUND LOOK
2.	microscope	SOUND LOOK
3.	periscope	SOUND LOOK
4.	microphone	SOUND LOOK
5.	phonetics	SOUND LOOK
6.	telescope	SOUND LOOK
7.	telephone	SOUND LOOK
8.	cacophony	SOUND LOOK

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 word containing phon or phone for SOUND and one new word containing scope for LOOK; tell what each word means.

SOUND _____

LOOK _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one word you wrote, identify another word part in it, and explain how both parts help you understand the whole word.

ANSWER KEY

Root Word Sort

GRADE 8 · 8.4.R.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	homophone	**SOUND**	Phone means sound; homophones are words that sound the same.
2	microscope	**LOOK**	Scope means look; a microscope is used to observe very small things.
3	periscope	**LOOK**	Scope means look; a periscope lets someone see over or around an obstacle.
4	microphone	**SOUND**	Phone means sound; a microphone picks up sound.
5	phonetics	**SOUND**	Phon means sound; phonetics is the study of speech sounds.
6	telescope	**LOOK**	Scope means look; a telescope is used to observe distant objects.
7	telephone	**SOUND**	Phone means voice or sound; a telephone carries voices across a distance.
8	cacophony	**SOUND**	Phon means sound; a cacophony is a harsh mix of sounds.

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)

- **SOUND**: Headphone: a device worn over the ears to hear sound.
- **LOOK**: Endoscope: a tool used to look inside the body.

Challenge: In endoscope, endo means inside and scope means look, so an endoscope is a tool used to look inside the body.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify phon or phone as sound or voice, or scope as look or examine, and connect that meaning to the chosen word. For Part 3, accept other accurate words and meanings that fit each root.