Mind at Work

Sort psychology tasks by their purpose.

PS.1.2 "Describe the classifications and various subfields in psychology, including vocational applications such as counseling, industrial, clinical, experimental, and educational psychology."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGY

Research psychology asks questions about how people think, feel, or act. Researchers gather evidence to find patterns.

A psychologist tests whether scents change how quickly volunteers recognize unfamiliar symbols.

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

Applied psychology uses knowledge about people to address practical needs.

A psychologist coaches firefighters on handling stressful calls.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RESEARCH or APPLIED for each item, then choose two items and explain the clue that helped you classify each.

1.	A counselor helps a student compare college and job options.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
2.	A company psychologist revises interview questions to make hiring fairer.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
3.	A researcher tests whether sleep length affects focus on a timed task.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
4.	A lab team tests whether blue light changes how people judge distances.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
5.	Researchers test whether group size affects how strangers share supplies.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
6.	A therapist treats a client's recurring panic attacks.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
7.	A school psychologist helps a teacher adjust reading lessons for students.	RESEARCH	APPLIED
8.	A researcher tests whether background music affects button-press speed.	RESEARCH	APPLIED

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 example of a research psychology task and one new example of an applied psychology task; label each.

RESEARCH _____

APPLIED _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about one problem: in the first, a psychologist investigates a question, and in the second, the psychologist uses the findings to address a practical need. Label each sentence.

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A counselor helps a student compare college and job options.	**APPLIED**	The counselor helps a student make a personal decision.
2	A company psychologist revises interview questions to make hiring fairer.	**APPLIED**	The psychologist addresses a workplace need.
3	A researcher tests whether sleep length affects focus on a timed task.	**RESEARCH**	The researcher gathers evidence about a possible relationship.
4	A lab team tests whether blue light changes how people judge distances.	**RESEARCH**	The team investigates a question about perception.
5	Researchers test whether group size affects how strangers share supplies.	**RESEARCH**	The researchers investigate a pattern in behavior.
6	A therapist treats a client's recurring panic attacks.	**APPLIED**	The therapist helps a client with a mental health concern.
7	A school psychologist helps a teacher adjust reading lessons for students.	**APPLIED**	The psychologist addresses a classroom need.
8	A researcher tests whether background music affects button-press speed.	**RESEARCH**	The researcher gathers evidence about response speed.

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)

- **RESEARCH**: A psychologist tests whether taking notes by hand changes how well people remember a story.
- **APPLIED**: A psychologist helps a hospital team reduce conflicts during shift changes.

Challenge: Research: A psychologist tests whether short breaks improve concentration during long tasks. Applied: The psychologist uses the findings to plan breaks for bus drivers on long shifts.

For item 1, the counselor helps with a decision, so the task is applied. For item 3, the researcher tests a question about focus, so the task is research.