Word Part Detectives

Use word parts to find meaning.

2.LF.17.b "Identify meaningful parts of words (morphemes) and use them as clues to the meaning of unknown words, including base words, compound words, and frequently occurring affixes and inflections."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPOUND WORD

A compound word joins two whole words. Both words give clues to its meaning.

bedroom = bed + room

WORD WITH AN ENDING

A word with an ending has a base word plus letters such as -ed or -ing. The base tells the action, and the ending adds to its meaning.

helped = help + -ed

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPOUND or ENDING for each word, then for Part 2, pick one word from each group and explain how its parts helped you know its meaning.

1. raincoat — COMPOUND ENDING

2. mailbox — COMPOUND ENDING

3. jumped — COMPOUND ENDING

4. toothbrush — COMPOUND ENDING

5. playing — COMPOUND ENDING

6. painted — COMPOUND ENDING

7. cupcake — COMPOUND ENDING

8. snowman — COMPOUND ENDING

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick one word from each group and explain how its parts helped you know its meaning.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new compound word and one new word with an ending that are not on this page.

COMPOUND _____

ENDING _____

CHALLENGE

Pick one of your new words, split it into parts, and write one sentence explaining how the parts help you know its meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Word Part Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.LF.17.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	raincoat	**COMPOUND**	Rain + coat means a coat worn in rain.
2	mailbox	**COMPOUND**	Mail + box means a box for mail.
3	jumped	**ENDING**	Jump + -ed means the jump happened in the past.
4	toothbrush	**COMPOUND**	Tooth + brush means a brush for cleaning teeth.
5	playing	**ENDING**	Play + -ing names the action of play as it happens.
6	painted	**ENDING**	Paint + -ed means the painting happened in the past.
7	cupcake	**COMPOUND**	Cup + cake means a small cake baked in a cup.
8	snowman	**COMPOUND**	Snow + man means a figure shaped like a person and made of snow.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Pick one word from each group and explain how its parts helped you know its meaning.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPOUND**: sandbox
- **ENDING**: walking

Challenge: sand + box: A sandbox is a box filled with sand.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the parts and link them to meaning. For example, raincoat is rain + coat, a coat worn in rain, and jumped is jump + -ed, meaning the jump happened in the past.