Word Part Check

Test a meaning against the parts of a word.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

PARTS SUPPORT THE MEANING

A proposed meaning fits when the word's parts support it.

Subterranean means "beneath the earth." Sub means under, and terr means earth.

PARTS CONTRADICT THE MEANING

A proposed meaning clashes when a word part contradicts it.

Aquatic means "related to fire" clashes with aqu, which means water.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered claim, circle FITS or CLASHES, then choose two claims and explain which word parts helped you decide.

1. Philanthropy means love of humanity. FITS CLASHES
2. Circumlocution means speaking in a roundabout way. FITS CLASHES
3. Incredulity means a readiness to believe. FITS CLASHES
4. Intercontinental means extending between continents. FITS CLASHES
5. Retrospective means looking toward future events. FITS CLASHES
6. Multilingual means speaking only one language. FITS CLASHES
7. Benevolence means a desire to do good. FITS CLASHES
8. Antipathy means a strong feeling against someone or something. FITS CLASHES

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 with a proposed meaning that FITS its parts, then one new word with a proposed meaning that CLASHES with its parts.

FITS _____

CLASHES _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a new word with at least two meaningful parts, write a false definition, then give its correct definition and explain both parts.

ANSWER KEY

Word Part Check

GRADE 11 · 11.4.R.3

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Philanthropy means love of humanity.	**FITS**	Phil means love, and anthrop means human.
2	Circumlocution means speaking in a roundabout way.	**FITS**	Circum means around, and locut means speak.
3	Incredulity means a readiness to believe.	**CLASHES**	In means not, and cred means believe. Incredulity is unwillingness to believe.
4	Intercontinental means extending between continents.	**FITS**	Inter means between, and continental refers to continents.
5	Retrospective means looking toward future events.	**CLASHES**	Retro means backward, and spect means look. The word refers to looking back.
6	Multilingual means speaking only one language.	**CLASHES**	Multi means many, and ling refers to language.
7	Benevolence means a desire to do good.	**FITS**	Bene means good, and vol means wish or will.
8	Antipathy means a strong feeling against someone or something.	**FITS**	Anti means against, and path refers to feeling.

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)

- **FITS**: Geothermal means related to Earth's heat.
- **CLASHES**: Monochrome means made of many colors.

Challenge: Interstellar means “inside one star,” but it actually means “between stars.” Inter means between, and stellar refers to stars.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a relevant word part and connect its meaning to the claim. For Part 3, geothermal fits because geo means earth and therm means heat; monochrome clashes because mono means one, not many.