Word Detectives

Sort words by the job they do in a sentence.

6.5.W.2 "Students will add clarity and variety to their writing with nouns, verbs, adjectives, prepositions, adverbs, and pronouns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADJECTIVE

An adjective describes a noun. It can help a reader picture a person, place, thing, or idea.

The **silver** kite drifted over fields.

ADVERB

An adverb can describe a verb. In these sentences, it tells how an action happens.

Puppies barked **loudly** at sunrise.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle whether the bold word is an adjective or an adverb; then choose two items and explain which word each bold word describes and how that helped you decide.

1. The **ancient** bridge crossed the creek. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
2. The rabbit hopped **quickly** across the path. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
3. The chef **carefully** sliced the melon. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
4. A **narrow** tunnel led underground. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
5. The **bright** lantern lit the room. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
6. We carried a **heavy** suitcase upstairs. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
7. The crowd cheered **enthusiastically**. ADJECTIVE ADVERB
8. The turtle crawled **slowly** toward the pond. ADJECTIVE ADVERB

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 sentence with an adjective and one new sentence with an adverb. Underline the adjective or adverb in each sentence.

ADJECTIVE _____

ADVERB _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both an adjective describing a noun and an adverb describing a verb. Underline both words, then name the noun and verb they describe.

ANSWER KEY

Word Detectives

GRADE 6 · 6.5.W.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The **ancient** bridge crossed the creek.	**ADJECTIVE**	Ancient describes the noun bridge.
2	The rabbit hopped **quickly** across the path.	**ADVERB**	Quickly describes how the rabbit hopped.
3	The chef **carefully** sliced the melon.	**ADVERB**	Carefully describes how the chef sliced.
4	A **narrow** tunnel led underground.	**ADJECTIVE**	Narrow describes the noun tunnel.
5	The **bright** lantern lit the room.	**ADJECTIVE**	Bright describes the noun lantern.
6	We carried a **heavy** suitcase upstairs.	**ADJECTIVE**	Heavy describes the noun suitcase.
7	The crowd cheered **enthusiastically**.	**ADVERB**	Enthusiastically describes how the crowd cheered.
8	The turtle crawled **slowly** toward the pond.	**ADVERB**	Slowly describes how the turtle crawled.

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)

- **ADJECTIVE**: A striped scarf lay on the chair.
- **ADVERB**: The dancer spun gracefully.

Challenge: The curious fox sniffed cautiously near the fence. Curious describes fox, and cautiously describes sniffed.

For Part 2, a student might explain: In item 1, ancient describes the noun bridge, so it is an adjective. In item 2, quickly describes the verb hopped, so it is an adverb.