Word Role Detective

Sort words, explain two choices with dictionary clues, and write your own.

9.4.R.4 "Students will use resources (e.g., dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, etc.) to determine or clarify the meanings, syllabication, pronunciation, synonyms, parts of speech, and etymology of words or phrases."

NAME _____ DATE _____

NOUN

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea. Check that the dictionary's noun meaning fits the sentence.

The **glow** of the lantern lit the path.

VERB

A verb expresses an action or a state of being. Check that the dictionary's verb meaning fits the sentence.

Dry leaves **rustle** in the wind.

1 SORT

8 items

Use a dictionary to check the bold word's meaning and part of speech in each sentence, then circle NOUN or VERB.

1. The architect drew a **draft** of the new library. NOUN VERB
2. The detective found a **trace** of blue paint. NOUN VERB
3. Please **frame** your question clearly. NOUN VERB
4. The store added a delivery **charge**. NOUN VERB
5. The lawyer will **draft** a letter. NOUN VERB
6. The crew will **trace** the cable through the wall. NOUN VERB
7. The gallery will **charge** five dollars for entry. NOUN VERB
8. The artist built a wooden **frame** for the canvas. NOUN VERB

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 a bold noun and one with a bold verb, and check both words in a dictionary.

NOUN _____

VERB _____

CHALLENGE

Choose a new word that can be a noun or a verb, write one sentence using it each way, and label its part of speech in each sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Word Role Detective

GRADE 9 · 9.4.R.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The architect drew a **draft** of the new library.	**NOUN**	Draft names a preliminary drawing.
2	The detective found a **trace** of blue paint.	**NOUN**	Trace names a small sign or amount.
3	Please **frame** your question clearly.	**VERB**	Frame means to put a question into words.
4	The store added a delivery **charge**.	**NOUN**	Charge names a fee.
5	The lawyer will **draft** a letter.	**VERB**	Draft means to write a preliminary version.
6	The crew will **trace** the cable through the wall.	**VERB**	Trace means to follow the cable's path.
7	The gallery will **charge** five dollars for entry.	**VERB**	Charge means to ask for payment.
8	The artist built a wooden **frame** for the canvas.	**NOUN**	Frame names a structure around the canvas.

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)

- **NOUN**: The **whistle** startled the hikers.
- **VERB**: The hikers **whistle** at sunrise.

Challenge: Noun: The **stamp** on the envelope is crooked. Verb: I **stamp** each package before shipping it.

For Part 2, students may choose any two items and explain how the dictionary meaning fits each sentence. For example, item 1 uses draft as a noun meaning a preliminary drawing, while item 5 uses it as a verb meaning to write a preliminary version.