Say It Clearly

Sort model sentences, then revise and say your ideas clearly.

7.LL.22 "Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRECISE AND CONCISE	VAGUE OR WORDY
A precise, concise sentence gives useful details without extra words.	An unclear sentence leaves out useful details, uses extra words, or does both.
At noon, the baker sold six rye loaves.	Somebody was involved in some kind of activity concerning food at an unspecified time.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle PRECISE or UNCLEAR. For Part 2, explain one item from each category. These are preparation for the spoken tasks in Part 3 and the challenge.

1.	The canoe traveled 12 miles downstream.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
2.	Mina planted four tulip bulbs beside the fence.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
3.	The trip covered some distance over the course of a certain amount of time.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
4.	The museum opens at 9 a.m. on Saturdays.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
5.	The performance was kind of good in a number of different ways.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
6.	The group did a bunch of things with the materials for quite some time.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
7.	A hawk circled above the red barn twice.	PRECISE UNCLEAR
8.	The recipe calls for three teaspoons of cinnamon.	PRECISE UNCLEAR

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Plan one new PRECISE sentence and one new UNCLEAR sentence about different topics. Write them as rehearsal notes, then say both aloud to a partner. Ask which gives clearer information and why; revise and say the unclear sentence again.

PRECISE _____

UNCLEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Plan a PRECISE revision of one UNCLEAR item in no more than 12 words. Say the original and revision aloud, then name two vague phrases you replaced. Ask a listener to repeat the revised facts. You may invent details for this fictional exercise.

ANSWER KEY # Say It Clearly

GRADE 7 · 7.LL.22

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The canoe traveled 12 miles downstream.	**PRECISE**	It gives an exact distance and direction without extra words.
2	Mina planted four tulip bulbs beside the fence.	**PRECISE**	It names who acted, what she planted, how many, and where.
3	The trip covered some distance over the course of a certain amount of time.	**UNCLEAR**	It gives no exact distance or time and uses unnecessary words.
4	The museum opens at 9 a.m. on Saturdays.	**PRECISE**	It states the opening time and day briefly.
5	The performance was kind of good in a number of different ways.	**UNCLEAR**	It does not say what made the performance good and uses extra words.
6	The group did a bunch of things with the materials for quite some time.	**UNCLEAR**	It does not identify the group, actions, materials, or length of time.
7	A hawk circled above the red barn twice.	**PRECISE**	It identifies the bird, its action, its location, and the number of times.
8	The recipe calls for three teaspoons of cinnamon.	**PRECISE**	It gives an exact ingredient and amount without extra words.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belonged.
Accept an explanation that answers every part of the task and identifies the deciding feature for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **PRECISE**: The train arrived at 7:15 p.m.
- **UNCLEAR**: The game went on for a while and had some things happen in it.

Challenge: Four volunteers sorted 30 donated books in 20 minutes. I replaced "the group" with "four volunteers" and "a bunch of things" with "sorted 30 donated books."

Parts 1–2 prepare for speaking; retain the listed classifications and accept supported explanations. For Part 3 and the challenge, listen to the actual spoken original and revision. The listener should identify clearer information and repeat the revised facts. Assess useful details and removal of extra words, not written notes alone. Keep the challenge revision to 12 words; phrase explanations are outside that limit. Invented details are allowed for this fictional exercise, not a factual report.