

Words at Sea

Use context and reference tools to choose exact word meanings.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.4c "Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Use a dictionary and thesaurus (print or digital). Underline bow in paragraph 1, current in paragraph 2, and the second occurrence of wind in paragraph 3. For each, circle one phrase in the same paragraph that helps you select its meaning. Number the three word-and-clue pairs 1, 2 and 3.

Sailing from Harbor

- ① On a clear morning, a student crew prepared a small sailboat at a harbor. Maya carried a coil of rope toward the bow, where a pointed rail rose over the water. The captain said that this area needed to stay clear before the boat left the dock. A sharp breeze snapped the sail as the crew pushed away from shore.
- ② Farther from land, the water seemed calm, but the boat drifted sideways. The captain watched a floating leaf slide in the same direction and explained that a current was moving beneath the surface. To reach a buoy, the crew adjusted the sail instead of rowing straight toward it. Their new path curved across the bay.
- ③ Near noon, the wind weakened, and the sail hung loose. Luis began to wind a thin line around a wooden spool so it would not tangle. Later, the captain checked the compass and told everyone to keep watching the clouds. Dark clouds can signal a change in weather, even when the harbor looks peaceful from shore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Use a dictionary to check bow in paragraph 1. Write its pronunciation and precise meaning in this passage.

- 2** Use a dictionary to check current in paragraph 2. Which meaning fits, "happening now" or "moving water"? Write the fitting meaning.

- 3** The word wind is used two ways in paragraph 3. Consult a dictionary. Write the pronunciation and meaning of wind in "Luis began to wind a thin line."

- 4** Use a thesaurus to find a synonym for breeze that fits paragraph 1. Write the synonym and explain how it preserves the meaning better than calm.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Use a book or article your teacher provides. Choose a word that is not in this passage. Copy its source sentence and name the reading. Consult a dictionary, then record its name, the word's pronunciation and the precise meaning that fits. Write an original sentence with a context clue and explain that clue.

Find and verify

Record the word, reading title, source sentence, dictionary name, pronunciation and fitting meaning. Use the dictionary's pronunciation key or a clear rhyming word.

Use and explain

Write your own sentence using the selected meaning. Underline its context clue and explain briefly how the clue supports that meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Use a dictionary and thesaurus (print or digital). Underline bow in paragraph 1, current in paragraph 2, and the second occurrence of wind in paragraph 3. For each, circle one phrase in the same paragraph that helps you select its meaning. Number the three word-and-clue pairs 1, 2 and 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use a dictionary to check bow in paragraph 1. Write its pronunciation and precise meaning in this passage.	Bow rhymes with cow; it means the front end of a boat. Accept an equivalent dictionary respelling or IPA /bau/.
2	Use a dictionary to check current in paragraph 2. Which meaning fits, "happening now" or "moving water"? Write the fitting meaning.	Moving water, especially water flowing in a particular direction.
3	The word wind is used two ways in paragraph 3. Consult a dictionary. Write the pronunciation and meaning of wind in "Luis began to wind a thin line."	Wind rhymes with find; it means to coil or wrap something around an object. Accept an equivalent dictionary respelling or IPA /waɪnd/.
4	Use a thesaurus to find a synonym for breeze that fits paragraph 1. Write the synonym and explain how it preserves the meaning better than calm.	Wind is one option: it is moving air that can snap a sail, while calm suggests little or no air movement. Accept another thesaurus synonym if the student explains how it fits the outdoor sailboat context and does not imply a much stronger storm.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lookup record: Word: resourceful. Reading: NOAA Ocean Today, Sea Otters 101.

Source sentence: "Sea otters are very resourceful – a trait that helps them to survive."

Dictionary: Merriam-Webster.com, resourceful entry. Pronunciation: ri-SORS-ful, with stress on SORS.

Meaning: able to find ways to solve problems.

Use and explain: Original sentence: The resourceful camper used a clean shoelace to replace the broken tent tie.

Clue: Used a clean shoelace to replace the broken tent tie shows finding a solution with an available object. Underline that phrase in the sentence.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Provide real dictionary/thesaurus access and a book or article before the activity. Use the reference's pronunciation guide; accept standard regional pronunciations, IPA or clear respelling. Possible marked clues include pointed rail over the water for bow, leaf slide in the same direction for current, and around a wooden spool for wind. Accept other relevant phrases in the specified paragraphs. Check the student's actual cited reading and dictionary, the selected meaning, and the original sentence's clue. Model sources: NOAA Ocean Today, Sea Otters 101 (oceanoday.noaa.gov/seaotters101/welcome.html); Merriam-Webster.com/dictionary/resourceful. The model lookup is an example, not a substitute for students consulting references.