

Word Detective Deck

Build and verify a complete spoken word profile.

GRADE 7 • TEKS 7.2.A

7.2.A "use print or digital resources to determine the meaning, syllabication, pronunciation, word origin, and part of speech;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

- | | |
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| 1 Use a print or digital dictionary with word origins. | 2 Name your source and distinguish spelling divisions from pronunciation. |
| 3 Each learner investigates and uses a word, regardless of role. | 4 Ask for clarification and correct unsupported claims. |

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Make a group of three or four. Provide dictionaries, including pronunciation and etymology. Print two card sheets. Assign all roles; one person takes two in a group of three.
2. Deal four Move Cards per learner, one from each category; set extras aside. Keep cards as reusable prompts. Select or share a Topic Card; two learners may investigate the same word.
3. Look up the word. Each learner reports meaning and part of speech, shows the written syllable division, and says the word using the source pronunciation key or audio.
4. Each learner traces the documented origin and speaks a new sentence showing the current meaning. Partners verify all five facts and ask one source-based question.
5. Finish when everyone has completed an accurate full profile and answered a partner question. Discuss the reflections; do not stop merely because cards were played.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

- ☐ Name your source and explain the meaning and part of speech you selected.
- ☐ Show the written syllable division and pronounce your word aloud.
- ☐ Trace the documented origin; explain any meaning change you found.
- ☐ Say your new sentence and explain how you answered a partner question.

TOPIC CARDS · choose or share a word card; two learners may investigate the same word

TOPIC Meticulous Investigate meticulous. Identify meaning, syllabication, pronunciation, origin, and part of speech. Explain how the current meaning differs from an earlier meaning if your source shows a change. Use the word in a new spoken sentence.	TOPIC Resilient Investigate resilient. Report all five required source facts, then use the word in a sentence about recovering after a difficulty. Explain which meaning fits your sentence.	TOPIC Translucent Investigate translucent. Report all five required source facts, then use the word to describe a material in a spoken sentence. Be ready to explain how your meaning differs from transparent.
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ROLE CARDS · assign all roles; one person doubles roles in a group of three

ROLE Source Scout Check that each learner names a resource and a fitting definition.	ROLE Sound Sleuth Check written syllabication and spoken pronunciation against the source.	ROLE Origin Hunter Ask for documented origin, including intermediate languages when given.	ROLE Usage Coach Check each learner's part of speech and new spoken sentence.
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MOVE CARDS · Use each dealt starter aloud in the relevant round or role. Every learner must use all four cards during the activity; keep and reuse them.

MOVE CARD MEANING / GRAMMAR "My source is ____. Here ____ means ____ and is a ____."	MOVE CARD MEANING / GRAMMAR "This definition fits my sentence because ____."	MOVE CARD DIVISION / SOUND "The entry divides the written word _____. Its sound is _____."	MOVE CARD DIVISION / SOUND "The pronunciation key or audio tells me to stress _____."
MOVE CARD ORIGIN TRAIL "The entry traces this word through ____ to _____."	MOVE CARD ORIGIN TRAIL "English meaning change: _____, or none documented."	MOVE CARD USE / VERIFY "My new sentence is _____. That demonstrates _____."	MOVE CARD USE / VERIFY "Where does your source show ____? Let us verify it."

Print 2 copies of this card sheet per team of 3 or 4. Use one set of topic and role cards; combine the move cards, deal 4 per player, and set extras aside. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Provide accessible print/digital dictionaries with etymology and pronunciation support. Print two card sets; give one card per category to each learner, with four spares for three learners. The sample demonstrates one learner's profile; others must complete their own. Source: [merriam-webster.com/dictionary/meticulous](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/meticulous). Pronunciation here is an approximate classroom respelling. Accept documented regional pronunciations and resource-dependent divisions. For meticulous, the entry's Did you know? section documents English meaning change. Verify resilient and translucent in the selected resource; do not treat all responses as equally correct. No extra written response is required. If no English meaning change is documented, say so; an ancestor's gloss alone is not evidence of a change in English.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	Merriam-Webster lists meticulous as an adjective. I use it to mean paying very close attention to accuracy and detail.
Eli	What division and pronunciation does that entry show?
Maya	The written division is me-tic-u-lous. I say muh-TIK-yuh-luhs, with stress on TIK.
Maya	The Latin roots are meticolosus and metus (fear). Merriam-Webster's Did you know? section describes English usage changing from fearful to careful.
Maya	The meticulous editor checked every date against the source before approving the article. That shows careful attention to accuracy.

LISTEN FOR

- Each learner accurately reports meaning, part of speech, syllabication, pronunciation, and origin.
- Source evidence supports the profile; guessed roots do not count.
- Each learner uses the word naturally in a new spoken sentence.
- Each learner answers a partner's verification question and corrects errors.

Word facts must match the identified resource. Check each learner's complete five-fact profile, spoken usage, and answer to a partner question. Different documented variants may be valid; unsupported guesses are not.