

Word Case Files

Use supplied contexts, word parts and reference checks.

GRADE 8 • 8.RV

8.RV "The student will systematically build vocabulary and word knowledge based on grade eight content and texts. Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general and academic language and content-specific vocabulary..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Read the case before checking its reference entry.

2 Point to actual words that support your interpretation.

3 Use word parts as clues, then check the whole meaning.

4 Invite every learner to explain and revise an idea.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Use the two supplied resource pages. Begin with Case A, then complete B and C. Take different roles; a group of three shares responsibility for the fourth job.
2. Print two card sheets; deal four move cards each and set extras aside. Cards are optional prompts: trade, adapt or reuse them. Completion depends on the work, not card counts.
3. Read the case aloud. Each person predicts the target meaning using a quoted context clue, then checks it against the reference entry and explains one useful word part.
4. Discuss the case comparison. Each person contributes a reason, responds to a peer and gives a new sentence using the target word accurately.
5. On your own resource page, record your meaning, supporting clue and new sentence for each case. Finish after everyone completes all three cases; check your reflections.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I supported each target meaning with a context clue.

☐ I connected a useful word part to each full meaning.

☐ I checked the entries and explained the comparisons.

☐ I used every target word in a new sentence and recorded my work.



TOPIC CARDS · Complete A, B and C with the matching supplied case.

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
A: Reconstruct Use Case A. Explain reconstruct from clues and re-. Compare reconstruct with rebuild; explain the bridge metaphor.	B: Biodegradable Use Case B. Explain biodegradable from clues and bio-. Why is recyclable not an exact synonym?	C: Microscope Use Case C. Explain microscope from clues and micro-. Compare its literal use with the figurative phrase.

ROLE CARDS · One role each; with three learners, share the fourth job.

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Scout Ask each learner to identify actual context words.	Part Mapper Connect one useful word part to the full meaning.	Link Keeper Ask how the case comparison sharpens meaning.	Reference Checker Invite each learner to check and revise a prediction.

MOVE CARDS · Optional prompts; trade, adapt or reuse as needed.

MOVE CARD USE CONTEXT “The words ____ suggest ____ means ____.”	MOVE CARD USE CONTEXT “My clue is ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD USE PARTS “The part ____ helps me predict ____.”	MOVE CARD USE PARTS “That word part fits the context because ____.”
MOVE CARD CHECK MEANING “The reference entry confirms or changes ____.”	MOVE CARD CHECK MEANING “My revised meaning is ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD COMPARE USE “These two uses differ because ____.”	MOVE CARD COMPARE USE “In a new context, I could say ____.”

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.

Read each original fictional context before consulting the reference page. Discuss the matching Topic card, then make your own brief record below each case.

Case A: reconstruct

A storm knocked the footbridge apart. Workers saved the fallen beams, studied an old photograph and planned how to reconstruct the crossing. When the bridge reopened, a resident wrote, "The town has a new spine." Compare reconstruct and rebuild in this context, then explain the metaphor.

Meaning and clue; your new sentence:

Case B: biodegradable

A fictional science-club report describes packaging as biodegradable: tiny living organisms can break its material down over time. A separate label says recyclable, meaning the material can be processed for use again. The club warns that the two labels describe different processes. Explain why they are related but not exact synonyms.

Meaning and clue; your new sentence:

Case C: microscope

With only her eyes, Lina could not see the details on a tiny insect wing. Looking through a classroom microscope, she saw a larger image with fine lines. Later, a classmate said, "Let's put our proposal under a microscope before presenting it." Compare the actual instrument with the figurative phrase.

Meaning and clue; your new sentence:

Use these concise reference summaries to check your predictions. The examples on the case page are invented; the word meanings and origins below were checked in Merriam-Webster.

A: reconstruct

Verb: build or assemble something again; it can also mean recreating a past event from evidence. Here re- is a Latin-derived prefix meaning again. Rebuild is a close synonym in the bridge context. Sources: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reconstruct> and <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/re->

B: biodegradable

Adjective: able to be broken down through the activity of living organisms. Bio- is a Greek-derived combining form referring to life or living organisms. The word does not specify a single breakdown time. Sources: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/biodegradable> and <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bio->

C: microscope

Noun: an instrument that makes an enlarged image of a very small object. A classroom optical microscope uses lenses. Micro- is a Greek-derived combining form meaning small in this word. Sources: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/microscope> and <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/micr->

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Give each learner the context page and each group the reference page. Use two copies of the move-card sheet. The model shows part of Case A, not a complete round; every learner must finish A, B and C. B: biodegradable concerns breakdown by living organisms, while recyclable concerns processing for reuse. C: an actual microscope enlarges tiny objects; examining a proposal under a microscope means studying it closely.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	The crew puts the fallen beams together again, so reconstruct probably means rebuild.
Ben	The Latin prefix re- means again here. The reference entry confirms that prediction.
Cora	Reconstruct and rebuild have similar meanings here; reconstruct sounds more formal to me.
Diego	Calling the bridge a new spine compares its support and connection to a backbone; the bridge is not a body part.
Ava	My new sentence is: We used photographs to reconstruct our broken model of the town.

LISTEN FOR

- Specific context clues before reference checking.
- Accurate whole meanings and useful word-part connections.
- Supported comparisons of related, literal and figurative uses.
- Every learner completes three case records and original sentences.

Meaning claims have accuracy requirements. Different original sentences or reasonable connotations are acceptable only when the word fits. Check every learner's three written records. Do not accept invented context clues, treat every related word as a synonym, or require a figurative use when the case does not ask for one.