

Word Move Circle

Build precise meanings, test distinctions, and revisit new vocabulary.

11.RV “The student will systematically build vocabulary and word knowledge based on grade eleven content and texts. Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general academic and content-specific vocabulary through...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Before reading paragraph 3, use the Question 1 lines to infer ambivalent and equivocal from paragraphs 1-2; quote a clue for each. Check paragraph 3, discuss with a partner, and label corrections beside your first answers. Complete Questions 2-4 and the application.

Words in a Consequential Decision

- ① Original fictional report: A student archive committee considered selling its only printing press to fund online access. Lena was ambivalent: wider access appealed to her, but losing the machine that produced the school’s early newspapers troubled her. The committee’s public reply was equivocal: “We may proceed when conditions are appropriate.” It named neither a date nor the conditions, allowing readers to infer different commitments. Lena asked for transparent criteria that anyone could inspect. Her candid admission was that she wanted both outcomes, although the budget would not cover them.
- ② The agreement would become irreversible when the buyer collected and dismantled the press; its unique parts could not be recovered. Lena warned that this would mean “crossing the Rubicon,” not merely testing a reversible plan. The chair said, “Let’s put our cards on the table,” asking everyone to state priorities openly rather than reveal playing cards. A blunt response, “Your proposal ignores the cost,” exposed a problem but irritated its author. A candid alternative, “I cannot support the cost yet,” stated the speaker’s position without making the same accusation.

- ③ Reference notes: Ambivalent means holding mixed or opposed feelings; equivocal describes wording or evidence open to more than one interpretation. Transparent emphasizes openness to inspection; candid emphasizes frank expression; blunt can emphasize abrupt directness. Irreversible combines ir- (not), reverse and -ible (capable of being): not capable of being reversed. Crossing the Rubicon alludes to Caesar’s consequential river crossing in 49 BCE and means passing a point of no return. Putting cards on the table is an idiom for stating intentions openly. These notes clarify usage; context still determines the best choice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Use two clues to distinguish Lena’s ambivalence from the committee’s equivocal reply. Would swapping the words preserve those meanings?

- 2 Analyze irreversible using its parts and the agreement’s conditions. Why would the meaning be too strong for a trial that could be cancelled and fully undone?

- 3 Compare transparent, candid and blunt using the report’s exact situations. Why is the second response less accusatory without becoming dishonest?

- 4 Distinguish “crossing the Rubicon” from “put our cards on the table.” Explain each phrase’s effect on the discussion.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In 80-110 words, advise a fictional theater club deciding whether to sell its only handmade set for a digital backdrop. Use ambivalent, equivocal and irreversible accurately, plus the Rubicon allusion. Explain why the allusion fits or would overstate the situation. Follow the next-class retrieval directions afterward.

Apply in a new context

Write your own paragraph, then read it to a partner and revise an unclear use or justify keeping it.

Retrieve next class

Cover the sheet. Explain two target words and use one in a fresh sentence. Uncover, check and correct in another color.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Before reading paragraph 3, use the Question 1 lines to infer ambivalent and equivocal from paragraphs 1-2; quote a clue for each. Check paragraph 3, discuss with a partner, and label corrections beside your first answers. Complete Questions 2-4 and the application. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Use two clues to distinguish Lena's ambivalence from the committee's equivocal reply. Would swapping the words preserve those meanings?	Lena wants access but fears losing the press, showing mixed feelings. The reply permits multiple interpretations because it gives no definite date or conditions. Swapping the words would blur a person's competing feelings with the statement's unclear commitment.
2	Analyze irreversible using its parts and the agreement's conditions. Why would the meaning be too strong for a trial that could be cancelled and fully undone?	The prefix ir- means not; reverse plus -ible means capable of being reversed. Together they mean not capable of being reversed. Dismantling and losing unique parts prevents reversal here; a trial that can be fully undone does not.
3	Compare transparent, candid and blunt using the report's exact situations. Why is the second response less accusatory without becoming dishonest?	Transparent criteria can be inspected; Lena's candid admission frankly states her mixed wishes. The blunt response accuses the other proposal of ignoring cost. I cannot support the cost yet states an honest personal limit without the same accusation; candor need not be harsh.
4	Distinguish "crossing the Rubicon" from "put our cards on the table." Explain each phrase's effect on the discussion.	The historical allusion presents the sale as an irreversible turning point, increasing its seriousness. The card idiom asks for open intentions, encouraging clarity. Neither refers to a literal river crossing or game here.

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am ambivalent about selling our handmade set: the new backdrop would be flexible, but our production would lose a distinctive piece of its history. The buyer's equivocal message, "We can probably arrange something," gives us no reliable collection date or terms. We should request a definite agreement before deciding. If the buyer dismantles the set and discards its unique panels, the sale becomes irreversible. Calling that moment crossing the Rubicon stresses a point of no return; using the phrase for a cancellable demonstration would exaggerate the commitment.

Later retrieval example: Ambivalent means having mixed feelings; equivocal means open to different interpretations. New sentence: I am ambivalent about moving because I welcome the opportunity but would miss my neighbors.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Each learner completes inference, checking, discussion, written transfer and next-class retrieval; playing prompts is not the assessment. Do not equate ambivalent with indifferent or equivocal with a proven lie. Transparent, candid and blunt overlap but differ by context; no word is always the most precise. The reference notes use original summaries checked against Merriam-Webster, entries ambivalent/equivocal and Crossing the Rubicon (merriam-webster.com). The historical allusion does not mean every important decision is irreversible. The first model paragraph is the application; the second models later retrieval.