Meaning Check

Test an inferred meaning against context clues.

9-10L4d "Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

MEANING FITS

Choose VERIFIED when the context clues support the proposed meaning. A dictionary check should confirm that meaning.

The *vivid* mural used bright colors that seemed to glow. Proposed meaning: vivid means bright and clear.

MEANING DOES NOT FIT

Choose REVISE when the context clues contradict the proposed meaning. Rethink the meaning, then check a dictionary.

The toddler was *gleeful* after receiving a puppy. Proposed meaning: gleeful means angry.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle VERIFIED or REVISE for each proposed meaning; Part 2: choose two item numbers and explain which context clues support or contradict each proposed meaning.

1. 1. The witness gave a *reluctant* reply only after repeated questions. Proposed meaning: reluctant means unwilling. VERIFIED REVISE

2. 2. The scientist's *methodical* notes listed each step in order. Proposed meaning: methodical means organized and careful. VERIFIED REVISE

3. 3. The *torrential* downpour flooded several streets. Proposed meaning: torrential means gentle and small. VERIFIED REVISE

4. 4. The senator made a *concise* statement that lasted only one minute. Proposed meaning: concise means brief. VERIFIED REVISE

5. 5. The old bridge was *precarious*, so drivers were warned not to cross it. Proposed meaning: precarious means built to last for centuries. VERIFIED REVISE

6. 6. The manager *endorsed* the plan by recommending it to the board. Proposed meaning: endorsed means criticized. VERIFIED REVISE

7.	7. Thick fog *obscured* the path, so hikers could not see where to walk. Proposed meaning: obscured means hidden from view.	VERIFIED REVISE
8.	8. The mayor called for *frugal* spending and cut unnecessary purchases. Proposed meaning: frugal means spending money freely.	VERIFIED REVISE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one sentence with a context clue and a proposed meaning for VERIFIED, then write one sentence with a context clue and a proposed meaning for REVISE.

VERIFIED _____

REVISE _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a multiple-meaning word, name two possible meanings, and explain why the context does not verify either meaning.

ANSWER KEY # Meaning Check

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The witness gave a *reluctant* reply only after repeated questions. Proposed meaning: reluctant means unwilling.	**VERIFIED**	Repeated questions suggest the witness did not want to reply.
2	2. The scientist's *methodical* notes listed each step in order. Proposed meaning: methodical means organized and careful.	**VERIFIED**	Listing steps in order supports an organized, careful process.
3	3. The *torrential* downpour flooded several streets. Proposed meaning: torrential means gentle and small.	**REVISE**	Flooding indicates very heavy rain, not gentle rain.
4	4. The senator made a *concise* statement that lasted only one minute. Proposed meaning: concise means brief.	**VERIFIED**	A one-minute statement is brief.
5	5. The old bridge was *precarious*, so drivers were warned not to cross it. Proposed meaning: precarious means built to last for centuries.	**REVISE**	The warning shows the bridge is unsafe or unstable.
6	6. The manager *endorsed* the plan by recommending it to the board. Proposed meaning: endorsed means criticized.	**REVISE**	Recommending a plan shows approval, not criticism.
7	7. Thick fog *obscured* the path, so hikers could not see where to walk. Proposed meaning: obscured means hidden from view.	**VERIFIED**	The hikers could not see the path because it was hidden.
8	8. The mayor called for *frugal* spending and cut unnecessary purchases. Proposed meaning: frugal means spending money freely.	**REVISE**	Cutting unnecessary purchases means spending carefully.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **VERIFIED**: The *ancient* manuscript, written centuries ago, was fragile. Proposed meaning: ancient means very old.
- **REVISE**: A *brisk* wind swept leaves quickly across the sidewalk. Proposed meaning: brisk means slow.

Challenge: Rina noticed the *current*. The word could mean a flow of water or a flow of electric charge, and the context does not verify either meaning.

Sort answers: 1 VERIFIED, 2 VERIFIED, 3 REVISE, 4 VERIFIED, 5 REVISE, 6 REVISE, 7 VERIFIED, 8 REVISE. For Part 2, students should cite specific context clues and state whether those clues support or contradict the proposed meaning.