Words at Work

How word forms shape a museum story

11-12.L.4.b "Analyze morphology to explore different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle three related words in each of four word families in the passage, then underline the endings that distinguish the forms. Notice how each form works in its sentence.

Voices from the Basement

1 After a storm flooded the basement of the Harbor Street Museum, volunteers carried out a box of cassette tapes from a local radio station. An archivist opened each case and noted the mud on its label. The museum's archive held thousands of items, but these recordings were the only interviews with dockworkers from the 1970s. An archival inventory listed their dates and guests, helping the team match loose tapes to their cases. Before anyone pressed play, the workers dried the cases and inspected the tape inside. A careless attempt to listen could pull damp tape apart.

2 The team hoped to digitize the interviews, but a damaged cassette could not safely pass through a player. A technician repaired one cassette and made a digital copy of its audio. Digitization did not fix the original tape; it gave visitors a way to hear the voices without handling it. Next, the museum had to authenticate a handwritten date on the case. A station schedule listed the same date and guest, supporting the conclusion that the date was authentic. A note in the catalog recorded that authentication because an incorrect date could place a speaker's story in the wrong decade.

3 For the exhibit, a curator asked a former dockworker to interpret a joke that younger listeners might miss. Her interpretation explained that "the mountain" was a nickname for a towering pile of shipping crates, not a nearby hill. An interpretive caption beside the listening station gave visitors that context without claiming every worker shared her view. The exhibit also played the interview itself, with pauses and laughter intact. One visitor found the caption helpful but found the speaker's own words more surprising. Keeping both the recording and the caption let visitors hear evidence and consider an explanation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, what does *archivist* name, what does *archive* name, and what does *archival* describe?

2. In paragraph 2, how does the job of *digitize* differ from the jobs of *digital* and *digitization*?

3. The team needs to *authenticate* a date. How do *authentic* and *authentication* express related but different ideas in paragraph 2?

4. In paragraph 3, who *interprets* the joke, what is the *interpretation*, and what does *interpretive* describe?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a school event using *predict* and two related forms you build with suffixes. Use each form in a different grammatical role, and make its meaning clear from context.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle three related words in each of four word families in the passage, then underline the endings that distinguish the forms. Notice how each form works in its sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, what does *archivist* name, what does *archive* name, and what does *archival* describe?	**An archivist is the person handling the tapes. The archive is the museum's collection. Archival describes the inventory.**
2	In paragraph 2, how does the job of *digitize* differ from the jobs of *digital* and *digitization*?	**Digitize is a verb for making a digital copy. Digital describes the copy, while digitization names the process.**
3	The team needs to *authenticate* a date. How do *authentic* and *authentication* express related but different ideas in paragraph 2?	**Authentic describes the date as genuine. Authentication names the process of checking it.**
4	In paragraph 3, who *interprets* the joke, what is the *interpretation*, and what does *interpretive* describe?	**The former dockworker interprets the joke. Her interpretation explains the nickname "the mountain." Interpretive describes the caption that gives visitors that context.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I predict that the science fair will draw a crowd because every booth offers a hands-on test. My prediction is based on last year's long line outside the gym. The applause for the foam demonstration was predictable after students cheered during its setup.

Accept equivalent explanations that identify each form's role and connect its meaning to the passage. For Part 3, accept any two correctly formed relatives of predict used in distinct grammatical roles.