Word Job Detectives

Sort words, then explain how you knew two answers.

5.L.1.a "Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general and use in sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONJUNCTION

A conjunction joins words or groups of words. It helps show how ideas fit together.

Mia sang **but** Leo danced.

PREPOSITION

A preposition shows how a noun or pronoun relates to another part of a sentence. It can show place, time, or direction.

Coins glimmer **beneath** cushions.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle JOIN or RELATE to show the job of the bold word.

1.	My backpack sits **under** my desk.	JOIN RELATE
2.	A puppy slept **beside** its bowl.	JOIN RELATE
3.	Nora drew a map **and** Eli wrote clues.	JOIN RELATE
4.	A gardener stood **between** two trees.	JOIN RELATE
5.	You can choose apples **or** pears.	JOIN RELATE
6.	We stayed home **because** rain fell.	JOIN RELATE
7.	A cyclist rode **across** a bridge.	JOIN RELATE
8.	A rabbit darted **through** tall grass.	JOIN RELATE

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 new sentence with a conjunction and one new sentence with a preposition. Bold the word that has each job.

JOIN _____

RELATE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses both a conjunction and a preposition. Bold both words and name each word's job.

ANSWER KEY

Word Job Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.L.1.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	My backpack sits **under** my desk.	**RELATE**	Under shows where the backpack sits in relation to the desk.
2	A puppy slept **beside** its bowl.	**RELATE**	Beside shows where the puppy slept in relation to the bowl.
3	Nora drew a map **and** Eli wrote clues.	**JOIN**	And joins two groups of words that express ideas.
4	A gardener stood **between** two trees.	**RELATE**	Between shows where the gardener stood in relation to the trees.
5	You can choose apples **or** pears.	**JOIN**	Or joins two choices.
6	We stayed home **because** rain fell.	**JOIN**	Because joins an action with its reason.
7	A cyclist rode **across** a bridge.	**RELATE**	Across shows the cyclist's path in relation to the bridge.
8	A rabbit darted **through** tall grass.	**RELATE**	Through shows the rabbit's path in relation to the grass.

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)

- **JOIN**: Tess packed lunch **and** Sam filled bottles.
- **RELATE**: A kite floated **above** our yard.

Challenge: Jay searched **behind** the curtain **but** found nothing. Behind is a preposition, and but is a conjunction.

For Part 2, have students choose two numbered items and explain what each bold word does. Accept explanations that identify joining ideas for JOIN or showing a relationship for RELATE.