Words at Work

Use context to tell similar words apart.

5.L.1.f "Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., lose, loose)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each use of lose, loose, their, there, they're, its, it's, hear, and here in the passage. Circle a nearby clue that helps you understand each word.

The Marble Maze

1. On Friday, our class built a marble maze from cardboard for the school fair. Maya warned us not to lose the tiny metal ball before the first test. One side of the maze felt loose, so I pressed the tape down firmly. When the ball rolled past the paper tunnel, it rattled against that wall. We added another strip of tape and tried again.

2. At the fair, three visitors stepped up to the table. Their tickets were bright orange, and they held them like tiny flags. "The starting line is there," said Maya, pointing to a star drawn on the cardboard. "They're ready," I whispered when the visitors leaned over the maze. Each person tilted the board gently while the others watched the ball turn around a sharp corner.

3. Near the finish, the ball stopped inside a paper cup. Its bottom had a small dent that trapped the ball. "It's stuck!" said one visitor. I could hear the ball clicking as Maya tapped the cup, but nobody could see it. "Look here," I said, lifting the cup's edge. The ball slipped free, and the visitors cheered when it reached the finish line.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the passage use lose for the ball but loose for the maze wall?

2. In paragraph 2, what does each word tell you: their, there, and they're?

3. Why is its used for the cup's bottom, but it's used when the visitor speaks?

4. In paragraph 3, why does the narrator use hear for the clicking and here when lifting the cup?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene about searching for a missing item or pet somewhere other than a fair. Use one word from each group correctly: lose/loose, their/there/they're, and hear/here. Underline the three words you chose.

ANSWER KEY

Words at Work

GRADE 5 · 5.L.1.f

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each use of lose, loose, their, there, they're, its, it's, hear, and here in the passage. Circle a nearby clue that helps you understand each word. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the passage use lose for the ball but loose for the maze wall?	**Lose means misplace the ball. Loose describes the wall because it was not firmly attached.**
2	In paragraph 2, what does each word tell you: their, there, and they're?	**Their shows that the tickets belong to the visitors. There points to the starting line. They're means the visitors are ready.**
3	Why is its used for the cup's bottom, but it's used when the visitor speaks?	**Its shows that the bottom belongs to the cup. It's means "it is" in "It is stuck."**
4	In paragraph 3, why does the narrator use hear for the clicking and here when lifting the cup?	**Hear means detect a sound. Here points to the place at the cup's edge.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I didn't want to lose my puppy in the park. My sister pointed there, beside a bench. I could hear his collar jingling as he ran toward us.

Accept explanations that show how each word fits its sentence, even if students use different wording. For Your Turn, check that the three underlined words come from different groups and fit the student's scene.