

Cursive Clarity

Spot writing that a reader can understand.

5.2.C “write legibly in cursive.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

EASY TO READ

Legible cursive is easy for another reader to understand. Its letters, spaces, and lines are clear.

The cursive word 'garden' has smooth letter joins and even-sized letters.

NEEDS FIXING

Unclear cursive makes a reader stop or guess. It needs changes before it is easy to read.

The cursive word 'music' has a long line drawn through every letter.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Read each handwriting clue and circle LEGIBLE or UNCLEAR, then Part 2: choose two clues and write in cursive what makes each one easy or hard to read.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Each word has a clear space before the next word. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. The letters in 'play' are stacked on top of one another. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. A capital letter is so large that it covers the first word. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. The letters in each word join smoothly. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. The writing stays on the line. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. Letters change size from tiny to huge in one word. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. A reader can tell where one word ends and the next begins. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. The loops in several letters are closed so tightly that they look like dots. | ☐ LEGIBLE | ☐ UNCLEAR |
| <hr/> | | |

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 example for LEGIBLE in cursive. Then write one new example for UNCLEAR by describing a handwriting problem, not by copying messy writing.

LEGIBLE _____

UNCLEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Write a two-sentence cursive message with smooth joins, even letter size, clear spaces, and correct end marks.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Each word has a clear space before the next word.	LEGIBLE	Clear word spacing helps a reader separate words.
2	The letters in 'play' are stacked on top of one another.	UNCLEAR	Overlapping letters are difficult to identify.
3	A capital letter is so large that it covers the first word.	UNCLEAR	An oversized letter blocks other writing.
4	The letters in each word join smoothly.	LEGIBLE	Smooth joins help cursive words stay readable.
5	The writing stays on the line.	LEGIBLE	Writing on the line supports clear letter formation.
6	Letters change size from tiny to huge in one word.	UNCLEAR	Very uneven letter size can make a word hard to read.
7	A reader can tell where one word ends and the next begins.	LEGIBLE	Clear word boundaries make the message readable.
8	The loops in several letters are closed so tightly that they look like dots.	UNCLEAR	Letters that look like dots cannot be read clearly.

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)

- **LEGIBLE:** I packed my lunch.
- **UNCLEAR:** The tail of a letter stretches into the next word.

Challenge: Please bring my blue folder. I need it for art class.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Sort answers are 1 LEGIBLE, 2 UNCLEAR, 3 UNCLEAR, 4 LEGIBLE, 5 LEGIBLE, 6 UNCLEAR, 7 LEGIBLE, and 8 UNCLEAR. For Part 2, accept explanations that name a specific feature, such as spacing, letter shape, size, joining, or line placement.