

Meaning Matchup

Use word clues to uncover meaning and tone.

GRADE 10 • 10.RV.1

10.RV.1 "Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general academic and content-specific vocabulary through reading, discussing, and writing about grade-level texts and topics..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Play a card only after you finish its starter with evidence.

2 Discuss words and phrases from the topic card.

3 Let each person finish speaking before you respond.

4 Do not play a card for another player.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Form a group of three or four players.
2. Print two complete copies of the eight Move cards for your group. Shuffle all 16 cards, deal four to each player, and set aside four cards in a three-player group.
3. Choose one Topic card and give each player one Role card.
4. Take turns using a Move card starter to add an accurate idea to the discussion, then place that card in the middle.
5. End the round when every player has played four cards. Check the reflection statements together.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context or sentence structure to infer a meaning.

☐ I used a root, prefix, or suffix to explain a word.

☐ I explained a connotation and its effect on tone.

☐ I distinguished literal meaning from figurative, idiomatic, or allusive meaning.


TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Running on Fumes After a difficult practice, Jordan says, "I am running on fumes." How does this idiom show Jordan's condition and tone, and why does its literal meaning not fit?	Counterproductive Claim During a fundraiser, someone says, "Arguing about posters is counterproductive." How do the word parts and context clarify the meaning and connotation of counterproductive?	Pandora's Box A student calls a missing password "a Pandora's box," referring to the Greek myth in which opening a container released troubles. How does this allusion explain the problem and the speaker's meaning?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Context Scout Watch for nearby words and situation details that support an inferred meaning.	Word Builder Ask the group to point to roots, prefixes, or suffixes that clarify a word.	Tone Tracker Notice whether word choices sound positive, negative, neutral, serious, or playful.	Meaning Mapper Help the group separate literal meanings from idioms, figurative language, and allusions.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE "The words around ____ suggest that ____ means ____."	MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE "The situation shows that ____ probably means ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PARTS "In ____, the word part ____ suggests ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PARTS "The prefix, root, or suffix ____ helps me infer that ____ means ____."
MOVE CARD tone check "The word or phrase ____ has a ____ connotation because ____."	MOVE CARD tone check "If ____ replaced ____, the tone would become ____."	MOVE CARD MEANING SHIFT "Literally, ____ would mean ____, but here it means ____."	MOVE CARD ALLUSION LINK "The allusion or figurative phrase ____ suggests ____ because ____."

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two complete copies of the Move deck for each group so every player can receive four cards. Let groups choose a new Topic card for each round and rotate Role cards. For uneven participation, require each student to play one card before any student plays a second card, then continue in turn order.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	The words around "running on fumes" suggest that Jordan has very little energy.
Mateo	Literally, "running on fumes" would mean a vehicle is almost out of fuel, but here it means Jordan feels almost out of energy.
Nia	The phrase "running on fumes" has a worried connotation because it suggests Jordan may not be able to keep going.
Leo	In "running," the word part "-ing" suggests an action that is continuing.
Ava	If "low on fuel" replaced "running on fumes," the tone would become more neutral.

LISTEN FOR

- Claims about meaning supported by surrounding words or situation details
- Accurate references to prefixes, roots, or suffixes
- Specific explanations of positive, negative, neutral, or mixed connotations
- Clear distinctions between literal and intended figurative, idiomatic, or allusive meanings

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.