Dictionary Detectives

Use a beginning dictionary to check a spelling.

3.LU.2.E "Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries to check and correct spelling."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two plant words Lina checks in the dictionary. Circle the steps she takes to correct each sign.

Garden Sign Check

1. On Saturday, Lina helped her uncle make labels for a community garden. She wrote the names of plants on small wooden signs. When she came to the red fruit that grows on a vine, she paused. Lina was not sure whether tomato had one m or two. She did not guess. Instead, she took a beginning dictionary from the shelf.

2. First, Lina turned to the letter T and used the guide words at the tops of pages to find the right section. She looked at the entry for tomato. It showed tomato spelled t-o-m-a-t-o. Lina noticed that the word has one m. She erased the extra letter on her sign and wrote tomato again. This time, she copied each letter carefully.

3. Later, Lina wanted a label for a long, green vegetable. She was unsure how to spell cucumber. She used the same steps: find the first letter, use guide words, and read the entry. The dictionary spelled cucumber c-u-c-u-m-b-e-r. Lina checked her sign against the entry before she hung it by the garden row near the bean plants.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What word did Lina check first in the dictionary?

2. What did Lina do after she saw the correct spelling of tomato?

3. What helped Lina find the right dictionary section?

4. Write the correct spelling Lina found for the long, green vegetable.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one word you are not sure how to spell. Write your first try, check the word in a beginning dictionary, then write the correct spelling and use it in a sentence.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two plant words Lina checks in the dictionary. Circle the steps she takes to correct each sign. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What word did Lina check first in the dictionary?	**tomato**
2	What did Lina do after she saw the correct spelling of tomato?	**She erased the extra letter and copied tomato correctly.**
3	What helped Lina find the right dictionary section?	**The guide words at the tops of the pages.**
4	Write the correct spelling Lina found for the long, green vegetable.	**cucumber**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I first wrote tommorow. I checked a beginning dictionary and found tomorrow. We will water the garden tomorrow.

Accept any word that is checked in a reference material, corrected accurately, and used in a complete sentence. The first try may be correct if the student still verifies it in the dictionary.