

Word Clue Circle

Talk through word meanings with clues and word parts.

GRADE 3 • 3.RV.1

3.RV.1 "Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop general academic language and content specific vocabulary by listening to, reading, and discussing a variety of texts relevant to a grade three topic or subject area..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak when you play a card.

2 Use the whole sentence starter.

3 Point to words that support your idea.

4 Let each player finish a turn.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Put one Topic card where everyone can see it.
2. Each player takes one different Role card.
3. Use two sets of Move cards and deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns using a Move card starter to add an idea about the topic.
5. Put played cards in the middle. When all dealt cards are played, check the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used sentence clues to infer a word meaning.

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

☐ I compared synonyms, antonyms, or word strength.

☐ I used meaning clues to choose a homophone.


TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Park Cleanup How can you explain the word meanings, word parts, word strength, and homophone choice in these sentences: "After the storm, the playground was damp." "We reused the bags." "Jada dashed, not just ran, to the bin." "Please write the date on the chart."	Garden Time How can you explain the word meanings, word parts, word strength, and homophone choice in these sentences: "After rain, the soil was damp." "Eli replanted the seedling." "A bee hovered, not just moved, over a flower." "Wait for your turn to water."	Library Visit How can you explain the word meanings, word parts, word strength, and homophone choice in these sentences: "The librarian whispered, not just spoke, in the quiet room." "Sam reread the page." "The backpack was heavy, not light." "The librarian allowed us to read aloud."

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Catcher Listen for words around a tricky word and point out clues from the sentence.	Part Scout Look for roots, prefixes, and endings that help explain a word.	Meaning Mixer Listen for synonyms, antonyms, and stronger or weaker words, then ask the group to compare them.	Word Tooler Use a nearby glossary, dictionary, or thesaurus to check one word or word pair when needed.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD USE CONTEXT "The words around ____ make me think it means ____."	MOVE CARD USE CONTEXT "The words around ____ make me think it means ____."	MOVE CARD CHECK PARTS "In ____, the word part ____ means ____, so the whole word means ____."	MOVE CARD CHECK PARTS "In ____, the word part ____ means ____, so the whole word means ____."
MOVE CARD FIND SYNONYM "A synonym for ____ is ____, so I think it means ____."	MOVE CARD FIND OPPOSITE "An antonym for ____ is ____, so ____ means ____."	MOVE CARD COMPARE STRENGTH "____ is stronger than ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD CHOOSE SOUND "I chose ____, not ____, because the sentence means ____."

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

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the Move cards for each group, then deal four cards per student. Require students to complete the starter with an accurate idea before placing a card in the middle. If participation is uneven, ask the quiet student to choose the next sentence or word while the group waits for that student to play a card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	The words around damp make me think it means a little wet.
Leo	An antonym for damp is dry, so damp means a little wet.
Noah	In replanted, the word part re- means again, so the whole word means planted again.
Ava	Hovered is stronger than moved because it tells that the bee stayed in one place in the air.
Maya	I chose wait, not weight, because the sentence means stay until your turn.

LISTEN FOR

- Uses nearby sentence words as evidence for a meaning
- Explains how a root, prefix, or ending changes meaning
- Compares words with precise synonym, antonym, or strength language
- Chooses a homophone by explaining the sentence meaning

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