# Ending Detective

Sort words by their endings.

**4.RV.1.C** "Determine the meaning of complex words using frequently occurring root words and inflectional affixes (e.g. -s, -ing, -ed)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### ENDING

You can split the word into a root word and -s, -ed, or -ing. The ending adds meaning, such as more than one or happened before.

painted = paint + -ed

### ROOT

The last letters may look like an ending, but they are part of the root word. Do not split the word.

wing is one root word, not w + -ing.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle ENDING or ROOT; for Part 2, choose two words and explain the root and ending, or explain why the last letters are part of the root.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | jumped | ENDING | ROOT |
| **2.** | dogs | ENDING | ROOT |
| **3.** | ring | ENDING | ROOT |
| **4.** | running | ENDING | ROOT |
| **5.** | sled | ENDING | ROOT |
| **6.** | class | ENDING | ROOT |
| **7.** | helped | ENDING | ROOT |
| **8.** | dress | ENDING | ROOT |

## 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 word for ENDING and one new word for ROOT.

**ENDING** _____

**ROOT** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write a sentence with an ENDING word. Then write its root, its ending, and what the ending tells.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Ending Detective



## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | jumped | **ENDING** | jump + -ed; -ed shows the action happened before. |
| 2 | dogs | **ENDING** | dog + -s; -s shows more than one dog. |
| 3 | ring | **ROOT** | ring is a root word, not r + -ing. |
| 4 | running | **ENDING** | run + -ing; -ing shows an action happening now. |
| 5 | sled | **ROOT** | sled is a root word, not sl + -ed. |
| 6 | class | **ROOT** | class is a root word, not clas + -s. |
| 7 | helped | **ENDING** | help + -ed; -ed shows the action happened before. |
| 8 | dress | **ROOT** | dress is a root word, not dres + -s. |

## 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)

- **ENDING**: swims
- **ROOT**: crab

**Challenge:** The birds floated across the pond. Root: float. Ending: -ed. The ending tells that the floating happened in the past.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify the root and inflectional ending, or correctly explain that the final letters cannot be separated from the root. Part 3 answers will vary.