Spell It Sure

Use the right source to verify unfamiliar words and names.

7.LU.2.D "Consult reference materials to check and correct spelling."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each word or name Talia checks with a reference. Circle the reference material she uses, so you can see how writers match a spelling question to a source.

Talia's Sea Report

1. On the research boat, Talia drafted a short report about the sea at night. She wrote that some tiny organisms can produce bioluminescence, or light made by living things. The word looked long, so she did not trust her memory. In a science dictionary, she found bioluminescence listed with its meaning and spelling. She copied the spelling carefully into her report, then reread the sentence to make sure it fit her idea clearly for readers.

2. The next morning, Talia described phytoplankton, tiny plantlike organisms that drift in water and form an important part of many ocean food webs. Because her class field guide used this word, she checked the guide's glossary instead of guessing from its sound. The glossary showed phytoplankton as one word, not two. Talia also noticed that a search result on a website shortened the word in a heading. She chose the full spelling from the field guide because it was a source her teacher had approved.

3. Before turning in the report, Talia checked the names of two places, the Arctic Ocean and Svalbard. She used an atlas for place names because a general dictionary might not include every location. The atlas confirmed the capital letters and the spelling of Svalbard, an island group north of mainland Europe. Finally, she used her word processor's spell-check tool to flag possible errors. Spell-check suggested a change in one sentence, but Talia compared the suggestion with her sources before accepting it. A tool can help, but a reliable reference can settle a question.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. A draft says bioluminescense. Write the correct spelling, then name the reference Talia used to check it.

2. A student writes phyto plankton. How should the student correct the word, and which reference from the passage would help?

3. A draft spells the island group Svalbardd. Which reference should the writer consult, and what is the correct spelling?

4. Spell-check suggests changing a word in Talia's report. What should she do before accepting the change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a topic you know. Use a print or digital reference to check one challenging word, then add a third sentence that names the reference and the word you checked.

ANSWER KEY

Spell It Sure

GRADE 7 · 7.LU.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each word or name Talia checks with a reference. Circle the reference material she uses, so you can see how writers match a spelling question to a source. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A draft says bioluminescense. Write the correct spelling, then name the reference Talia used to check it.	**bioluminescence; a science dictionary**
2	A student writes phyto plankton. How should the student correct the word, and which reference from the passage would help?	**phytoplankton, written as one word; the field guide's glossary**
3	A draft spells the island group Svalbardd. Which reference should the writer consult, and what is the correct spelling?	**An atlas; Svalbard**
4	Spell-check suggests changing a word in Talia's report. What should she do before accepting the change?	**Compare the suggestion with reliable reference sources.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Volcanoes can release lava and ash during eruptions. Some scientists monitor active volcanoes to study possible hazards. I checked the spelling of eruptions in a digital dictionary.

Accept exact spellings and references that match the type of word or name in the passage. For Part 3, accept any accurate two-sentence topic response plus a third sentence naming a real reference and the checked word.