

Word Sleuth Shuffle

Use clues, word parts, and word relationships to unlock meaning.

GRADE 7 • 7.RV.1

7.RV.1 "Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general academic language and content-specific vocabulary by listening to, reading, and discussing a variety of grade-seven texts and topics. Use context (e.g...."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Keep the Topic card where everyone can see it.

2 Play a Move card only after you complete its starter with evidence.

3 Listen to each idea before adding your own.

4 Do not repeat an idea just to play a card.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Put one Topic card in the middle of your group.
2. Each player takes one Role card.
3. Shuffle enough Move-card copies and deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns using a Move-card starter, then place that card in the middle.
5. Keep taking turns until all dealt cards are played, then check the reflection statements.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context clues to predict a meaning.

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

☐ I compared synonyms or antonyms precisely.

☐ I explained a figurative phrase or a word's feeling.


TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Stormy Hall In the sentence, "During the storm, which growled outside, Nia crept silently down the unlit hall," decide whether crept should stay or be replaced by walked, tiptoed, or marched. Explain how the context, unlit, and the storm's "growl" shape your choice.	Charged Up In the sentence, "The overheated laptop groaned and became unusable," decide whether dead, powerless, or inactive is the clearest replacement for unusable. Explain how the context, word parts, and the laptop's "groan" shape your choice.	Heavy Morning In the sentence, "After Maya missed the bus, her backpack became a mountain during her unplanned rush," compare burden, load, and problem as descriptions of her situation. Explain which word fits best and what the metaphor and un- in unplanned add.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Scout Point to words in the topic that give a meaning clue, and ask the group to explain the clue.	Word Builder Notice prefixes, roots, and suffixes, and ask what each part adds to meaning.	Connection Coach Listen for synonyms, antonyms, and shades of meaning, and ask for a precise comparison.	Figure Finder Listen for figurative language, and ask the group to state the literal meaning or explain why wording is literal.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD CONTEXT CLUE "The words around ____ make me think it means ____."	MOVE CARD CONTEXT CHECK "The word ____ acts like a ____ here, so it probably means ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PART "I notice ____ in ____, so I predict ____."	MOVE CARD AFFIX EFFECT "The prefix or suffix ____ changes ____ by ____."
MOVE CARD WORD LINK "A synonym for ____ is ____, but ____ feels more ____."	MOVE CARD OPPOSITE LINK "An antonym for ____ is ____, which helps me see ____."	MOVE CARD FIGURE CHECK "The phrase ____ is a ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD tone CHOICE "Both ____ and ____ fit, but ____ has a more ____ feeling."

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

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the Move-card set for each group of four, then deal four cards to each player. For groups of three, deal four cards each and set aside the extras. If participation is uneven, pause after each turn cycle and invite the player with the most cards left to choose a card to use next, while teammates may point to evidence but may not speak for that player.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Elena	The words around crept make me think it means moving slowly and carefully.
Noah	I notice un- in unlit, so I predict not lit.
Jamal	A synonym for crept is tiptoed, but crept feels more secretive.
Sofia	The phrase the storm growled is personification because a storm cannot really growl.
Elena	Both crept and tiptoed fit, but crept has a more secretive feeling.

LISTEN FOR

- Uses nearby words as evidence for a predicted meaning
- Explains how an affix changes a base word's meaning
- Distinguishes close synonyms by shade of meaning
- Names figurative language and explains its literal meaning

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