

Word Focus

Choose modifiers that make meaning clear.

8.LU.1.C "Use specific adjectives and adverbs to enhance speech and writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SPECIFIC

A specific adjective or adverb gives a clear detail. It helps a reader picture exactly what something is like or how an action happens.

Crimson fabric draped elegantly over balconies.

GENERAL

A general adjective or adverb gives a broad idea. It does not give many clear details.

That plan sounds fine.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle SPECIFIC or GENERAL for each sentence, then pick two item numbers and explain which modifier makes each choice fit.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. The mechanic carefully inspected the loose belt. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 2. The jagged cliff rose sharply above the trail. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 3. The show seemed good. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 4. The muddy puppy eagerly chased a ball. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 5. Our dinner felt nice. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 6. The flower looked pretty. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 7. The brittle leaf drifted erratically downward. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |
| 8. The game was fun. | SPECIFIC | GENERAL |

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 sentence with a SPECIFIC modifier and one new sentence with a GENERAL modifier.

SPECIFIC _____

GENERAL _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your GENERAL sentence so it includes one specific adjective and one specific adverb.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The mechanic carefully inspected the loose belt.	SPECIFIC	Carefully and loose give clear details about the action and belt.
2	The jagged cliff rose sharply above the trail.	SPECIFIC	Jagged and sharply create a clear picture.
3	The show seemed good.	GENERAL	Good is a broad evaluation without clear details.
4	The muddy puppy eagerly chased a ball.	SPECIFIC	Muddy and eagerly add clear details.
5	Our dinner felt nice.	GENERAL	Nice is a broad description.
6	The flower looked pretty.	GENERAL	Pretty is a general description that does not explain what makes the flower attractive.
7	The brittle leaf drifted erratically downward.	SPECIFIC	Brittle and erratically clearly describe the leaf and its movement.
8	The game was fun.	GENERAL	Fun is a broad evaluation without specific details.

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)

- **SPECIFIC:** The lantern glowed dimly through the fog.
- **GENERAL:** The song sounded nice.

Challenge: The storm was bad. Revised: The violent storm raged relentlessly.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the modifier and explain whether it gives a clear detail or a broad idea. For Part 3, accept varied answers when the category choice is supported by the modifier used.