

Word Sense Circuit

Use clues, parts, links, and layers of meaning.

GRADE 8 • 8.RV.1

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Keep the Topic card visible.

2 Take turns so every voice enters.

3 Play a card only after you use its starter.

4 Build on a word or idea already shared.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Form a group of 3 or 4 and choose one Topic card.
2. Give each player one different Role card.
3. Use two copies of the eight Move cards, shuffle them, and deal four cards to each player.
4. Discuss the task. When you naturally use a card's sentence starter, place that card in the middle.
5. End the round when every player has played all four cards, then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context clues to infer meaning.

☐ I connected a root, prefix, or suffix to meaning.

☐ I used a synonym, antonym, or comparison.

☐ I explained literal, connotative, or figurative meaning.

TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC Word Clue Challenge How can your group choose an academic word, create a two-sentence situation that reveals its meaning without defining it, and explain its context clues, word parts, related words, and feeling?	TOPIC Meaning Shift How can your group choose a word with more than one meaning, create two one-sentence contexts for it, and explain how clues, related words, and connotation distinguish the meanings?	TOPIC School Image Builder How can your group create a two-sentence school scene with a simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, or idiom, then explain its literal meaning, connotation, related words, and a useful word part?
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ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE Clue Hunter Listen for nearby details that help reveal a word or phrase's meaning, and ask the group to name the clue.	ROLE Part Picker Listen for roots, prefixes, and suffixes, and ask how each useful word part affects meaning.	ROLE Link Maker Listen for synonyms, antonyms, and comparisons, and ask how the relationship changes understanding.	ROLE Meaning Scout Listen for literal, connotative, and figurative meanings, and check a dictionary or glossary when the group needs evidence.
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MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD CONTEXT CHECK "From the words around ____, I think it means ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD CONTEXT CHECK "The detail ____ is a clue that ____ means ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PARTS "I notice ____ has ____, which can mean ____."	MOVE CARD WORD PARTS "The prefix or suffix ____ changes ____ by showing ____."
MOVE CARD WORD LINK "A synonym or antonym for ____ is ____, so ____."	MOVE CARD WORD LINK "Unlike ____, ____ suggests ____."	MOVE CARD MEANING LAYERS "Literally, ____ means ____, but it can make readers feel ____."	MOVE CARD MEANING LAYERS "The phrase ____ has a ____ feeling because ____."

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

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Run one round with each Topic card, using two copies of the Move cards for every group of four. Listen for accurate reasoning rather than one required word choice, and ask students to revise claims that lack a clue or accurate word-part connection. If participation is uneven, require players to wait until each group member has played one card before anyone plays a second card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	For Word Clue Challenge, our two sentences are: "After the debate, Sam offered constructive feedback. He named one strong reason and suggested a clearer ending." From the words around constructive, I think it means helpful because Sam gives praise and a useful suggestion.
Eli	I notice constructive has struct, which can mean build.
Nora	A synonym for constructive is helpful, so the feedback is meant to improve Sam's work.
Jordan	Literally, constructive means serving a useful purpose, but it can make readers feel hopeful.
Maya	Unlike destructive, constructive suggests improvement.

LISTEN FOR

- uses specific nearby details as context evidence
- connects a root or affix to a reasonable predicted meaning
- explains how a synonym, antonym, or analogy sharpens meaning
- distinguishes literal meaning from connotation or figurative meaning

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