

Word Case Files

Build evidence for a word's meaning.

GRADE 8 • 8.RV

8.RV "The student will systematically build vocabulary and word knowledge based on grade eight content and texts. Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general and academic language and content-specific vocabulary..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak only when your starter fits the group's work.

2 Play a card after you finish its starter aloud.

3 Support claims with evidence, word parts, or a source.

4 Keep a print or digital dictionary open for source checks.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and read its task aloud.
2. Each player takes a different Role card.
3. Shuffle two copies of the Move cards, deal four to each player, and set aside extras.
4. Take turns making a true move, saying the starter, and placing that card in the middle.
5. Continue until everyone has played all dealt cards, then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context clues to support a word meaning.

☐ I used a Greek or Latin word part to infer meaning.

☐ I connected words through synonyms, antonyms, or related meanings.

☐ I checked a reference source or explained a connotative or figurative meaning.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Storm Repair How can your group build a meaning case for reconstruct by using context, word parts, related words, a reference tool, and literal and figurative sentences?	Earthwise Packaging How can your group build a meaning case for biodegradable by using context, word parts, related words, a reference tool, and literal and figurative sentences?	Close Observation How can your group build a meaning case for microscope by using context, word parts, related words, a reference tool, and literal and figurative sentences?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Scout Watch for surrounding words or details that support the group's meaning claim.	Part Mapper Notice prefixes, roots, and suffixes, and question any word-part claim that does not fit.	Link Keeper Ask the group to connect the target word to synonyms, antonyms, or related words.	Meaning Judge Watch for clear differences among literal, figurative, and connotative meanings, and check the dictionary when needed.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD SPOT CLUES “The words around ____ suggest it means ____ because ____.”	MOVE CARD SPOT CLUES “Because ____ happened, ____ probably means ____.”	MOVE CARD SPLIT WORD “In ____, the prefix, root, or suffix ____ suggests ____.”	MOVE CARD SPLIT WORD “The word part ____ also appears in ____, so ____ may relate to ____.”
MOVE CARD LINK WORDS “____ is similar to or opposite of ____, which helps me understand ____.”	MOVE CARD COMPARE SHADES “____ feels more ____ than ____, even though both can mean ____.”	MOVE CARD CHECK SOURCE “A dictionary or glossary lists ____ as a ____ meaning ____.”	MOVE CARD READ IMAGE “The image in “____” suggests ____, not a literal ____.”

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

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the Move cards for each group of four. For groups of three, deal four cards to each player and set aside the remaining cards. If one student dominates, require that every other player completes one move before that student takes another turn.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	The words around reconstruct suggest it means build again because workers repair the bridge after the storm.
Ben	In reconstruct, the prefix re- suggests again. In a literal sentence, workers reconstruct the bridge after the storm.
Cora	Reconstruct feels more formal than rebuild, even though both can mean build again.
Diego	A dictionary or glossary lists reconstruct as a verb meaning build again.
Ava	The image in "Reconstructing the bridge gave the town a new spine" suggests support and connection, not a literal spine.

LISTEN FOR

- Meaning claims supported by specific surrounding words
- Accurate connections between Greek or Latin parts and whole-word meaning
- Precise synonym, antonym, and connotation comparisons
- Dictionary evidence and clear literal versus figurative explanations

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