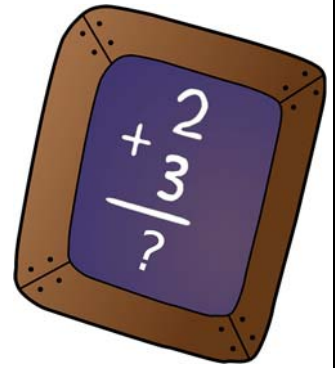


Name _____

Inferring the Meaning

Directions: Read each passage. Infer the meaning of the bolded word based on the surrounding text. Some questions are multiple-choice, while others are open-ended.



1. Even though Sam had no formal training, his **innate** ability to solve complex math problems impressed the entire faculty. It was as if he was born with an understanding of numbers that others needed years to develop.

What does "innate" most likely mean?

- A. Learned through study
- B. Taught by others
- C. Natural or inborn
- D. Unrelated to skill

2. Maria's tone was **sarcastic**, though her words seemed polite. When she said, "Oh, great, another meeting," everyone knew she was not actually looking forward to it.

What does "sarcastic" most likely mean? Explain your reasoning in 1-2 sentences:

3. The weather forecaster warned that the winds would **escalate** throughout the evening. By midnight, they could reach dangerous speeds, potentially causing damage to power lines and rooftops.

What does "escalate" most likely mean?

- A. Decrease
- B. Stay the same
- C. Intensify or increase
- D. Move side to side

4. Despite her efforts to remain calm, her **trepidation** was evident. Her hands trembled slightly as she approached the stage, and her voice wavered when she began to speak.

What does "trepidation" most likely mean? Explain your reasoning in 1-2 sentences: