



TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

DEFINITION

Meaning of the unfamiliar word is given right in the sentence.

Signal words: is, are, or, means, refers to

(Caverns are very large caves.)

SYNONYM

A similar word is given for the unfamiliar word.

Signal words: also, as, like, same, too

(She is cautious crossing the street and also careful riding her bike.)

ANTONYM

A word meaning the opposite of the unfamiliar word is given.

Signal words: but, unlike, though however, instead of

(The water was shallow, but it was deep enough to catch a fish.)

EXAMPLE

Samples, instances, or ideas of the unfamiliar word are given.

Signal words: for example, like, such as, including

(Souvenirs such as T-shirts, key chains, and postcards are fun ways to remember trips.)

GENERAL

General clues are given about the unfamiliar word.

No signal words

(I appreciate the way you encouraged me. I won first prize.)

HOW I CAN USE CONTEXT CLUES TO FIGURE OUT THE MEANING OF UNFAMILIAR WORDS.

1. Think about the five types of context clues.
2. Look for words, phrases, and signal words that may help to figure out the meaning of the unfamiliar word.
3. If necessary, reread or read ahead to find other clues about the word.
4. Use the clues to help figure out the meaning of the word.
5. Try the learned meaning in the sentence.
6. If it makes sense, continue reading.
7. If no clues are available, or if unable to figure out the meaning, look the word up in the dictionary.

