

Types of Context Clues



Finding word meaning in context...

Question: Where can you find context clues?

Answer: In the sentence where the unknown word appears.

Answer: In the sentence(s) before and/or after the word.

Types of Context Clues	Descriptions & Examples	Signal Words & Phrases
Definition or Comparison	The author provides a direct definition of an unfamiliar word right in the sentence. Example: A <u>conga</u> is a barrel-shaped drum.	<input type="checkbox"/> is <input type="checkbox"/> are <input type="checkbox"/> means <input type="checkbox"/> refers to
Appositive	A type of definition clue. An appositive is a word or phrase that defines or explains an unfamiliar word that comes before it. Example: At night you can see <u>constellations</u> , or groups of stars, in the sky.	<input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> signal punctuation—it is set off by commas
Synonym	The author uses another word or phrase that has a similar meaning to the unfamiliar word. Example: My dog Buck travels everywhere with me. My friends <u>canine</u> , Buddy, travels everywhere with him too.	<input type="checkbox"/> also <input type="checkbox"/> as <input type="checkbox"/> identical <input type="checkbox"/> like <input type="checkbox"/> likewise <input type="checkbox"/> resembling <input type="checkbox"/> similarly <input type="checkbox"/> too
Antonym	The author uses another word or phrase that means the opposite of the unfamiliar word. Example: Unlike Jamaal's room, which was <u>immaculate</u> , Jeffrey's room was very messy.	<input type="checkbox"/> but <input type="checkbox"/> however <input type="checkbox"/> whereas <input type="checkbox"/> though <input type="checkbox"/> unlike <input type="checkbox"/> as opposed to <input type="checkbox"/> in contrast <input type="checkbox"/> instead of <input type="checkbox"/> on the other hand
Example	The author provides several words or ideas that are examples of unfamiliar words. Example: In science we were studying <u>marine mammals</u> such as whales, dolphins, and porpoises.	<input type="checkbox"/> like <input type="checkbox"/> such as <input type="checkbox"/> for example <input type="checkbox"/> for instance <input type="checkbox"/> including
Inference	Word meanings are not directly described, but need to be inferred from the context. Example: Tim's <u>pugnacious</u> behavior made his opponent back down.	