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Introduction

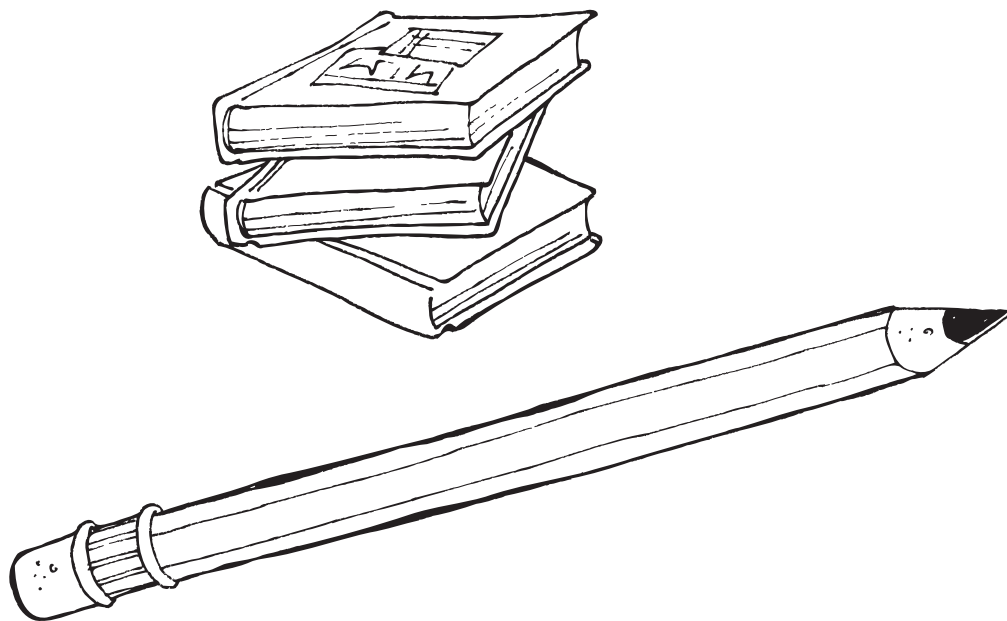
Context Clues 3–4 contains ready-to-use activity pages to provide students with skill practice in context clues. These activities can be used to supplement and enhance what you are teaching in your classroom. Give an activity page to students as independent class work, or send the pages home as homework to reinforce skills taught in class. An answer key is included at the end of the book.

Students will practice looking for context clues to new and multiple-meaning words in the surrounding words and sentences. There are many kinds of context clues: definitions, synonyms, antonyms, explanations, and examples. The practical and creative activities in this book will give students the perfect way to practice and reinforce their understanding

of new and unfamiliar words. Students will receive reinforcement in the following skills:

- ✍ Matching words and definitions
- ✍ Writing definitions for new words
- ✍ Finding synonyms
- ✍ Finding antonyms
- ✍ Completing sentences with words appropriate to the context
- ✍ Identifying the correct meaning of a multiple-meaning word using context clues
- ✍ Finding word clues in sentences

Use *Context Clues 3–4* to help your students reinforce or extend their skills in contextual reading. “Recharge” skill review with the ready-to-go activities in this book, and give students the power to succeed!



Word Parts

Knowing the meaning of an individual word part can sometimes help a reader identify the meaning of the entire word.

Word Part Meanings

gram = write

tele = far

dent = tooth

bio = life

quad = four

rupt = break

derm = skin

sect = cut

Use the underlined word part to help you choose the correct definition of the boldfaced word.

- 1 We got a **telegram** from our grandparents.
 - a. phone call
 - b. long-distance note
 - c. phone message
 - d. present

- 2 I heard that a woman gave birth to **quadruplets**.
 - a. four babies
 - b. two babies
 - c. ten babies
 - d. three babies

- 3 Tom used his **telescope** each night.
 - a. device for looking at faraway objects
 - b. device for looking at small items
 - c. device for hearing things
 - d. device for doing homework

- 4 Kora has an appointment with a **dermatologist** today.
 - a. hair stylist
 - b. eye doctor
 - c. skin doctor
 - d. foot doctor

- 5 My grandma has to wear **dentures**.
 - a. false teeth
 - b. hearing aid
 - c. wig
 - d. shoes

- 6 The author wrote a **biography**.
 - a. story about someone's life
 - b. funny story
 - c. short story
 - d. children's story

- 7 The students had to **dissect** a frog in science class.
 - a. monitor
 - b. study
 - c. observe
 - d. cut and examine

- 8 The plumber fixed the **ruptured** pipe.
 - a. steel
 - b. broken
 - c. full
 - d. clogged

Example Clues

Sometimes sentences include examples that help a reader define an unknown word. The following words and phrases often indicate that an example will follow: *such as, consists of, including, and for example.*

Use the examples in the sentences below to help you determine the meaning of each underlined word.

- 1 Marta likes to eat exotic foods such as herbs from China, olives from Greece, and cheeses from France.
a. from other places b. expensive c. common d. delicious
- 2 The arid desert climate consists of heat and little moisture.
a. dry b. cool c. huge d. empty
- 3 The people on the jungle safari faced many perils, including wild animals and unsafe roads.
a. places b. animals c. jeeps d. dangers
- 4 There are many ways to conserve natural resources, such as recycling paper and using less water.
a. save b. use c. destroy d. help
- 5 Some animals hoard food for the winter. For example, squirrels gather lots of nuts in the fall.
a. throw away b. gather and store
c. bury d. grow and eat
- 6 My mom told me many anecdotes about my grandparents, including the story of how they came to America from Russia.
a. feelings b. stories
c. ideas d. thoughts



Definition and Synonym Clues

Sometimes defining an unfamiliar word is easy because the definition or a familiar synonym for the word is stated directly in the sentence. Commas; dashes; and the words *is*, *are*, *was*, and *were* are often hints that a definition or synonym is coming up.

Look for these words and punctuation marks to help you find the definition for each underlined word.

1 His perplexed, or confused, look made us laugh.

Definition _____

2 Being that she is a novice, she entered the snowboarding competition as a beginner.

Definition _____

3 Helen Keller was deaf and mute—she could not hear or speak.

Definition _____

4 Dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago are now extinct—gone forever.

Definition _____

5 There was a conflict on the playground, but the teacher intervened and put an end to it.

Definition _____

6 During a fire drill, you should follow all regulations such as being silent, staying in line, and walking out to the playground.

Definition _____

Antonym and Contrast Clues

Sometimes readers can define an unknown word by contrasting the unknown word with a known word or idea. Antonyms or contrast clues often begin with words such as *unlike, as opposed to, instead of, rather, and not.*

Use the clues to help you define the underlined word in each sentence. Write your definitions on the lines.

- 1 He was sluggish and not lively and energetic like he usually is.

Sluggish means _____.

- 2 Unlike wild sweet peas, which should not be eaten, plants such as lettuce and celery are edible.

Edible means _____.

- 3 The aroma of fresh flowers is wonderful as opposed to the smell of rotten fish.

Aroma means _____.

- 4 Unlike most birds that sleep at night and are active during the day, owls are nocturnal animals.

Nocturnal means _____.

- 5 When parachuting, it is essential to attach the safety harness rather than think it is unimportant.

Essential means _____.

- 6 Please expel the noisy group from the library instead of letting them stay and continue to disturb others.

Expel means _____.

Word Meanings

Match each underlined word with the correct definition. Think about how the other words in the sentence give clues to the meaning of the underlined word.

1 The clown wore a strange wig of purple, green, and orange.

- a. pretty
- b. unusual
- c. busy

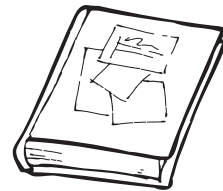


2 He was not strong enough to lift the weighty bag.

- a. heavy
- b. hard
- c. light

3 You will find the title page in the front of the book.

- a. last page
- b. middle
- c. beginning



4 One player aimed the ball at the net.

- a. pointed in a particular direction
- b. pointed at the ground
- c. tried to pull

5 A ferry carried the large group from the city to an island.

- a. light plane that floats
- b. boat that carries people and cars across water
- c. machine that carries people from one floor to the next

6 In Iowa the main crop is corn.

- a. what is grown and harvested, usually for food
- b. item of clothing
- c. plant with flowers



Match Words and Definitions

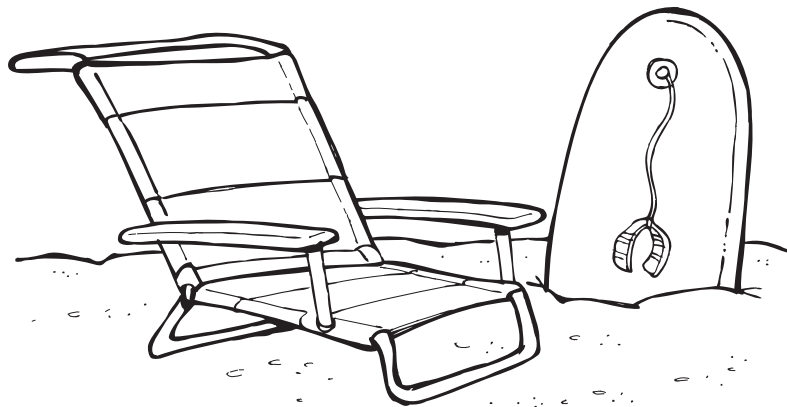
Match each underlined word with its definition. Write the letter on the line.

Sentence

- 1 _____ On Saturday, Sarah, her older brother Sam, and Uncle Joe decided to go to the beach.
- 2 _____ Sarah and Sam's mother packed a lunch of sandwiches, apples, and juice.
- 3 _____ Before swimming, Sarah smoothed the suntan lotion on her face.
- 4 _____ We watched the surf as it broke on the shore.
- 5 _____ Sam grasped the sides of his surfboard and ran into the ocean.
- 6 _____ Uncle Joe and Sarah built an enormous sand castle using big buckets and large shovels.
- 7 _____ At the end of the day, the waves destroyed the sand castle.
- 8 _____ We had a spectacular day at the beach!

Definition

- a. huge; gigantic
- b. put things in a bag or box
- c. held on tightly
- d. made up their minds
- e. fantastic; excellent
- f. placed on evenly; put on
- g. waves
- h. wrecked; ruined



Find the Synonyms

Circle the synonym for the underlined word in each sentence. Then circle the word or word phrase that gave you a clue to the word's meaning.

1 My brother scowled when we learned the movie we wanted to see was sold out.

smiled frowned cried

2 After dinner I ate a slice of apple pie and put the rest in the refrigerator.

whole crust piece



3 When the football player injured his knee, he felt a sharp pain.

bent hurt bandaged

4 The balloon burst when someone poked it with a stick.

popped floated cracked

5 I chose to write about how bees make honey as the topic of my paper.

color book subject

6 It was such a dull story that some students started yawning.

boring amusing wonderful

7 Chris gratefully sipped the cold beverage offered him on such a hot day.

drink can ice cream

8 When the road was curvy, Dad gripped the steering wheel tightly with both hands.

dropped grabbed polished

Look for Synonym Clues

Complete each sentence with a word that makes sense. Circle the synonym clue or clues.

1 She _____ at the object for a long time. She thought she saw it move.

2 Jeff always has something to _____. He talks constantly.

3 Our teacher gave us each a copy of the _____ story since we laughed so hard when she read it to us.

4 My brother's hair is so _____ that it looks like tiny, coil-shaped springs attached to his head.



5 When we saw an _____ dog lying in the road, Dad stopped the car to see if the hurt animal could be saved.

6 On a _____ day, we can't see very far. The moisture in the air is too dense.

7 The restaurant floor was _____. It was covered with grease, dirt, and food crumbs.

8 The music was so _____ that I was unable to hear what my friend was saying.