

## Vocabulary In Context

All readers come across words they don't know. It's not possible to carry a dictionary with you at all times or to look up every word you don't know. A good reader knows how to make a good guess about the meaning of an unknown word by considering the word in context.

When you read an unknown word, phrase or reference in a selection, context clues can help you figure out the meaning. Context clues are the words, phrases or sentences surrounding a word that can help explain its meaning or provide a synonym for it. Sometimes the context clues will give you more information about the unfamiliar word. Using the information, try to guess the word's meaning.

Context clues sometimes come before or after the unknown word.

1. Read the article, circling or highlighting unknown words.
2. Review the vocabulary words you found difficult. Reread the sentence that each unknown word is in, as well as the sentences that come before or after. Are there any context clues to help you figure out the meanings of the words? Take a guess at their definitions.

**Unfamiliar Word**

**Your guess at the definition**

**a.** \_\_\_\_\_

**b.** \_\_\_\_\_

**c.** \_\_\_\_\_

**d.** \_\_\_\_\_

**e.** \_\_\_\_\_

**f.** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Look up the words in the dictionary and compare your definitions with the definitions in the dictionary. How did you do? Were the context clues helpful with making a good guess of the meaning? Explain.

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