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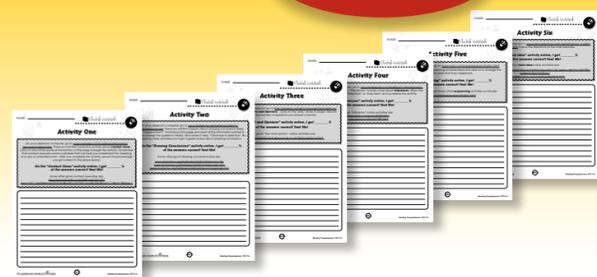


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Context Clues

1. Fill in each blank with the correct term.

context clues four types examples synonyms and definitions
antonyms and contrasts general knowledge

- a) _____ are phrases or words that mean the opposite of the new or unknown word.
- b) _____ are context clues that include information about the new word that is familiar to you.
- c) There are _____ of context clues.
- d) _____ are phrases or words that define or explain the new word.
- e) Words or phrases that can help readers understand the meaning of the new word are called _____.
- f) A _____ clue is another word or phrase with the same or a similar meaning as the new word.

Circle the correct answer for each question.

- 2. When Maria is happy, her face is ecstatic, or filled with joy. In this statement, ecstatic probably means:
a) bored b) joyful c) unaware
- 3. Her absent-minded dad loses his keys and his glasses everyday! In this statement, what does absent-minded probably mean?
a) forgetful b) shy c) intelligent
- 4. Tim has so many friends in his class because he is a gregarious person. In this statement, gregarious probably means:
a) friendly b) shy c) rude



Context Clues

Using context clues is another reading comprehension skill that can help you become a better reader. Writers often use words that are new to their readers. When this happens, the writers may include other words or phrases that can help readers understand the meaning of the new word. **These words or phrases are referred to as context clues.**

Context clues often appear in the sentences around the new word. By being aware of the words around unfamiliar words in your reading, you will be able to make logical guesses about the meanings of new words. There are **four types of context clues**. They are: **1. examples; 2. synonyms and definitions; 3. antonyms and contrasts; and 4. general knowledge.**

The following table explains each kind of context clue:

TYPE OF CONTEXT CLUE	DEFINITION	SIGNALS	EXAMPLES
Antonym or Contrast Clue	Phrases or words that indicate opposite	but, in contrast, however, instead of, unlike, yet	Unlike his quiet and low key family, Brad is raucous.
Example Clue	Phrases or words that define or explain	is defined as, means, the term, (a term in boldface or italics) set off with commas	Sedentary individuals, people who are not very active, often have diminished health.
General Knowledge	The meaning is derived from the experience and background knowledge of the reader; "common sense" and logic.	the information may be something basically familiar to you	Billy is the class show-off. He likes to have everyone's attention all the time.
Definition or Synonym Clue	Another word or phrase with the same or a similar meaning is used.	in other word, that is, also known as, sometimes called, or	The dromedary, commonly called a camel, stores fat in its hump.



Context Clues

Circle the correct answer for each question.

- 1. I abhor spinach! Its green color makes it taste horrible to me. In this sentence, abhor probably means:
a) love b) hate c) sometimes like
- 2. The classroom was in chaos, a state of disorder. In this sentence, chaos probably means:
a) a calm, peaceful state b) time-out c) confusion and mess
- 3. It is crucial to win today's game if we want to be the series champions! In this sentence, crucial probably means:
a) very important b) not necessary c) stupid
- 4. Please be careful! That race is filled with hazards. In this sentence, hazards probably means:
a) helpful hints b) dangers c) cheaters
- 5. Skip's parents are very prosperous. They own a huge house and two new cars. In this sentence, prosperous probably means:
a) rich b) poor c) religious

Read the paragraph and then answer the question that follows.

Jack and Kim were in a precarious situation. The rocks on the hillside next to them could fall at any time. Suddenly, they felt a tremor and the ground beneath them began to shake and move. The children knew that the rocks could pummel them at any second. Just as there seemed to be no hope, a savior arrived! Their dad was driving toward them in a huge military tank!



The Reading Watch Dog says, "Remember, context clues are key words and phrases that appear in the sentences around the new word."

- 6. In this paragraph, precarious probably means:
a) secure b) calm c) dangerous



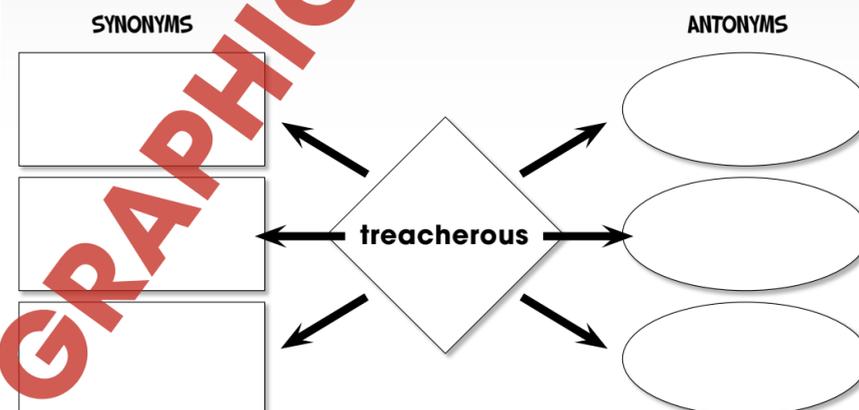
Using Graphic Organizers to Identify Context Clues

1. Put the letter of the correct term beside its definition:

- A words that mean the opposite of the new word 1
- B diagrams or drawings which help you list your ideas on paper. 2
- C words or phrases that can help readers understand the meaning of a new word. 3
- D words that mean the same as the new word 4

2. Use the information in the following paragraph to complete the graphic organizer. You may use a dictionary after you've tried to complete the organizers on your own.

During a storm at sea the water is treacherous. Ships are often broken apart by the strong waves. Others have simply vanished, never to be found again. Sometimes a simple fishing trip can be fatal to passengers if a storm forms while they are at sea. Sea captains must always take precautions to keep everyone safe.





(Main Idea and Supporting Details) Use the following writing prompt to write an essay with one main idea and several supporting details in it.

When I was lying in bed last night, I heard footsteps in the attic. I...

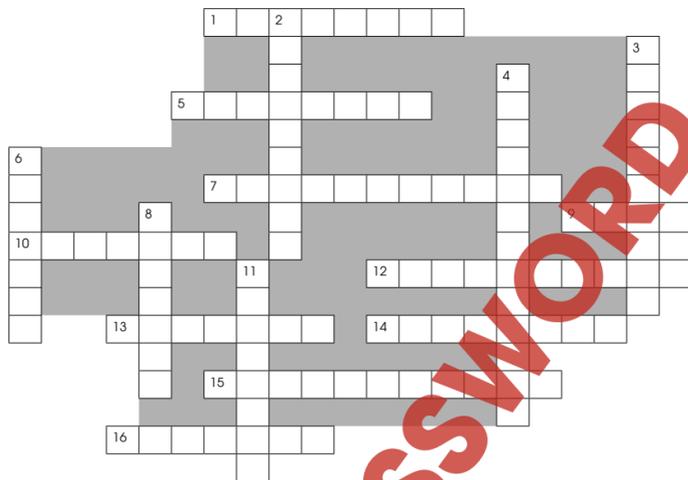


(Drawing Conclusions) Use the following writing prompt to write a paragraph about the time you arrived at home and found no one there. Include clues that helped you draw conclusions about where your family had gone.

I knew something had happened as soon as I walked in the kitchen door yesterday afternoon. I looked around and there was nobody there!



Crossword



Word List

- antonym
- chronological
- conclusions
- context
- evidence
- fact
- fishbone map
- graphic
- inference
- main idea
- opinion
- purpose
- reading
- sequencing
- supporting
- timeline

Across

1. The facts about something (proof)
5. A graphic organizer that displays events or dates in the order that they happened.
7. Drawing _____
9. Something that is always true
10. The main reason you read a selection
12. _____ details
13. _____ Comprehension
14. The most important part of a reading Selection
15. A graphic organizer shaped like a fish (2 words)
16. A word that means the opposite of another word

Down

2. Using clues from the text and your own knowledge and experience to figure out what the author is trying to say.
3. Putting events or actions in the order they occurred.
4. The order in which something happens
6. _____ Organizers
8. _____ Clues (a reading comprehension skill)
11. What someone thinks or believes



Comprehension Quiz



Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Proof of something is called:
a) opinion b) evidence c) synonymous
2. The ability to read and understand the meaning of a text is called:
a) reading comprehension b) reading between the lines c) purpose for reading
3. Words that mean the opposite of each other are called:
a) antonyms b) synonyms c) participles
4. Pieces of information that tell about the main idea are called:
a) timelines b) fishbones c) supporting details
5. Something that can always be proven is called a:
a) fact b) fib c) fantasy
6. The most important part of a reading selection is called:
a) an inference b) conclusion c) main idea
7. A diagram or chart that shows the relationships among concepts or ideas is called a:
a) chronology b) graphic organizer c) scoreboard
8. The reason you read a text is called the:
a) purpose for reading b) homework assignment c) directions
9. A word that means the same or about the same as another word is called:
a) a simile b) a synonym c) a metaphor
10. Words or phrases that can help readers understand the meaning of a new word are:
a) context clues b) reading purposes c) main ideas



Put a "T" in front of each true statement and put an "F" in front of each false statement.

- 11. A drawing can be a graphic organizer.
- 12. Evidence does not mean the same thing as proof.
- 13. A fishbone map is usually shaped like the skeleton of a fish.
- 14. Making an inference is the same thing as "reading between the lines".
- 15. It is very important to have good reading comprehension skills.



Nine Event Sequence Chain

NAME: _____

Before You Read 



Sequencing

1. Sequence the following events by putting a "1" next to what happens first, a "2" next to what happens next, etc.

- a) Turn out the light and go to sleep
- b) Get on the school bus to go to school
- c) Turn the alarm clock off and get out of bed
- d) Take a math test and then eat lunch
- e) Eat breakfast
- f) Put on your pajamas
- g) Get dressed for school
- h) Eat dinner with the family
- i) Look around the classroom and see who's come to class today

2. Read the following paragraph and list the events in the order that they happened. Circle the three sequencing clue words you find.

Wilbur awoke in the mud and the muck of the barn floor. He looked around to find out who had spoken to him last night. First he asked the horse if he had said anything. The horse just shook his head and chewed his hay. Next Wilbur whispered to the geese, "Did you speak to me last night?" They just looked at him funny and wobbled away. Finally, he heard a very small voice say, "Salutations!"

- a) Wilbur woke up in the barn. _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____
- g) _____

1.

- a) 9
- b) 4
- c) 1
- d) 6
- e) 3
- f) 8
- g) 2
- h) 7
- i) 5

1.

- a) beginning
- b) later
- c) next
- d) at the same time
- e) when
- f) shortly thereafter
- g) following that
- h) soon
- i) then
- j) when
- k) subsequently
- l) the last thing

1.

- 1 D
- 2 E
- 3 B
- 4 A
- 5 C

1.

- B
- H
- E
- I
- D
- A
- J
- F
- C
- G

2.

- a) Wilbur woke up in the barn.
- b) Wilbur looked around to find out who'd spoken to him the night before.
- c) Wilbur first asked the horse.
- d) The horse shook his head, "No".
- e) Wilbur then asked the geese.
- f) The geese just looked at him.
- g) He heard a small voice say, "Salutations!"

2.

Accept any reasonable response.

2.

Accept any reasonable response.

