

Using Context to Understand the Meaning of Words Worksheet

What Are Context Clues?

Context clues are words & sentences around an unfamiliar word that help readers understand its meaning.

Readers can use:

- Examples
 - Antonyms
 - Inference clues
 - Synonyms
 - Definitions
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Part I - Multiple Choice

Read each sentence carefully. Use context clues to determine the meaning of the underlined word.

1. The puppy was **energetic**, running around the yard and jumping excitedly.

What does "energetic" mean?

- A. Tired
 - B. Full of energy
 - C. Angry
 - D. Quiet
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2. After walking in the rain all afternoon, Maya felt completely **soaked**.

What does "soaked" mean?

- A. Dry
 - B. Warm
 - C. Very wet
 - D. Sleepy
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3. The old cabin was **isolated**, far away from any towns or neighbors.

What does "isolated" mean?

- A. Crowded
 - B. Hidden
 - C. Alone
 - D. Dangerous
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4. Ethan was **frustrated** because he could not solve the difficult puzzle.

What does "frustrated" mean?

- A. Relaxed
 - B. Upset
 - C. Excited
 - D. Proud
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5. The baby bird was very **fragile**, so the children touched it gently.

What does "fragile" mean?

- A. Easily broken
 - B. Loud
 - C. Hungry
 - D. Fast
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Part II – Match the Meaning – Match the Word on the left with its correct meaning on the right.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
6. Ancient	A. Very bright
7. Brilliant	B. Very old
8. Miserable	C. Very unhappy
9. Massive	D. Very large
10. Tiny	E. Very small

Part III – Read the Paragraphs

Paragraph 1

The classroom became **silent** as soon as the principal entered the room. No one whispered or moved while she spoke.

11. What does “silent” mean?
 - A. Loud
 - B. Noisy
 - C. Quiet
 - D. Excited
 12. Which context clue helped you determine the meaning?
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Paragraph 2

During the storm, the ocean waves became **violent**, crashing hard against the rocks and splashing water everywhere.

13. What does “violent” mean in this paragraph?
 - A. Calm
 - B. Powerful and rough
 - C. Quiet
 - D. Small
 14. Which words in the paragraph helped you understand the meaning?
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Paragraph 3

Jordan felt **confident** before the spelling bee because he had studied every night for two weeks.

15. What does “confident” mean?
 - A. Nervous
 - B. Prepared and sure
 - C. Angry
 - D. Confused
 16. What context clue helped you understand the meaning?
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