Name: _____ Date: _____

Context Clues

Good readers use other parts of the selection to help them understand words they do not know. **Context clues** are words that go before and after an underlined word. Sometimes the sentence that follows an unknown word may give the meaning of the word. If you read them carefully, they can help you figure out what the word means.

Here are ways to find context clues (Use the acronym **IDEA**):

➢ Antonyms

Sometimes we can figure out unknown words because the author will provide the antonym nearby.

Example: He was **generous**, not selfish, like his sister.



Guided Practice

Read the sentences below. Use the sentence to write the meaning of the word in bold below.

1. Very heavy rail will **damage,** not help the plants.

Meaning: _____

2. The large pool was **shallow,** instead of deep.

Meaning: _____

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3. The plane came to a **gradual,** not sudden stop.

Meaning: _____

4. Too much salt **spoiled** the soup. It tasted awful.

Meaning: _____

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