

## Context Clues

VOCABULARY 21

You can sometimes understand the meaning of an unfamiliar word by looking closely at **context clues**—the words, sentences, and paragraphs around the word. For example, read the following sentence from "Names/Nombres."

I was too afraid we wouldn't be let in if I corrected the man's pronunciation, but I said our name to myself, opening my mouth wide for the organ blast of the *a*, trilling my tongue for the drumroll of the *r*, *All-vah-rrr-es!*

The sentence describes the correct way to say the name *Alvarez*. By reading the whole sentence, you can tell that *pronunciation* means "the way in which one says—or pronounces—a word."

**Use Context to Infer Meanings** In the following sentences, use context clues to determine the meaning of each underlined word from "Names/Nombres." Write the meanings you infer on the lines provided. Use a dictionary to check your definitions.

1. Aunt Helena was thrilled at the commencement ceremony because she had always hoped that Albert would graduate from college.

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2. Grandma's affectionate feelings for her dog were clear to anyone who saw her gently patting him as he licked his dinner bowl clean.

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3. We looked through all the exotic items for sale at the village bazaar but finally stopped at a food stall to buy dried apricots and spices.

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4. Her literary interests include the poetry of Langston Hughes and fiction by Jack London.

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5. Dad forbade us to go to Jamie's party because no adults would be there, and no amount of pleading would change his mind.

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