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
- Synonyms
- Antonyms
- Definitions
- Inference clues

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.

Word	Meaning
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?

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?

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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