

High School Worksheet - CONTEXT CLUES

What Are Context Clues?

Context clues are words, phrases, or sentences surrounding an unfamiliar word that help you determine its meaning.

Directions: Use the context clues to determine the meaning of the **underlined word**.

Remember: Don't just look at the unfamiliar word! Look at the words and ideas surrounding it for clues.

1. The professor's lecture was **erudite**, containing information about several advanced scientific theories that most students had never studied.
 - A. confusing
 - B. humorous
 - C. highly knowledgeable
 - D. unorganized
2. Although Marcus was usually **gregarious** and enjoyed talking to everyone, he was unusually quiet during the meeting.
 - A. shy and nervous
 - B. outgoing and sociable
 - C. angry and hostile
 - D. serious and focused
3. The instructions were **ambiguous**; some students thought the assignment was due Friday, while others believed it was due Monday.
 - A. extremely clear
 - B. very detailed
 - C. unclear or open to different meanings
 - D. impossible to complete
4. The scientist was **meticulous** when conducting the experiment, carefully checking every measurement before recording the results.
 - A. careless
 - B. impatient
 - C. extremely careful
 - D. inexperienced
5. The team's victory was **inevitable** because they had won every game that season and were far ahead of their opponent.
 - A. impossible
 - B. certain to happen
 - C. surprising
 - D. disappointing
6. The politician's **candid** response surprised reporters because she openly admitted that she had made a mistake.
 - A. dishonest
 - B. humorous
 - C. honest and straightforward
 - D. confusing
7. The abandoned house had an **eerie** atmosphere, with creaking floors, dark rooms, and strange noises coming from upstairs.
 - A. cheerful and welcoming
 - B. spooky and unsettling
 - C. modern and attractive
 - D. crowded and noisy

8. The coach was **adamant** that the team follow the rules. He refused to change his decision even after several players complained.
- A. uncertain
 - B. flexible
 - C. firm and unwilling to change
 - D. confused
9. The author's description of the battlefield was so **vivid** that readers could almost see the smoke, hear the explosions, and feel the fear of the soldiers.
- A. dull and boring
 - B. unclear
 - C. bright, clear, and detailed
 - D. unrealistic
10. The company's **pragmatic** decision was to reduce unnecessary expenses rather than pursue an expensive plan that might not succeed.
- A. practical and realistic
 - B. emotional and impulsive
 - C. unrealistic and idealistic
 - D. complicated and confusing
11. The witness gave a **credible** explanation because her story matched the evidence and several other witnesses confirmed her account.
- A. believable
 - B. ridiculous
 - C. secretive
 - D. incomplete
12. After receiving the scholarship, Jasmine felt **elated**. She smiled constantly and excitedly called her family to share the good news.
- A. extremely sad
 - B. very angry
 - C. extremely happy
 - D. completely confused
13. The student's **reluctance** to participate was obvious; he avoided volunteering and repeatedly said that he did not want to speak in front of the class.
- A. eagerness
 - B. unwillingness
 - C. excitement
 - D. confidence
14. The manager's explanation was **concise**. Instead of giving a long speech, she explained the entire situation in just three sentences.
- A. brief and to the point
 - B. confusing and complicated
 - C. emotional and dramatic
 - D. extremely detailed
15. The author's argument was **fallacious** because it was based on faulty reasoning rather than reliable evidence.
- A. logical and convincing
 - B. based on incorrect reasoning
 - C. supported by facts
 - D. carefully researched

16. The student's **diligent** approach to studying paid off. She reviewed her notes every night, completed every assignment, and asked questions when she needed help.
- A. lazy
 - B. careless
 - C. hardworking and persistent
 - D. distracted
17. The mayor's speech was **persuasive**; after hearing her arguments, many residents changed their opinions about the proposed project.
- A. able to convince others
 - B. difficult to understand
 - C. extremely short
 - D. filled with jokes
18. The old photograph was **fragile**, so the librarian handled it carefully to prevent the thin, damaged paper from tearing.
- A. valuable but strong
 - B. easily broken or damaged
 - C. large and expensive
 - D. colorful and unusual
19. The two scientists had **divergent** opinions about the experiment. One believed the results were accurate, while the other strongly disagreed.
- A. identical
 - B. closely related
 - C. different or moving apart
 - D. completely unknown
20. The teacher praised Carlos for his **resourcefulness** when he found a creative way to complete the project using materials that were already available.
- A. ability to find clever solutions
 - B. unwillingness to work
 - C. tendency to make mistakes
 - D. fear of trying new things
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BONUS: Identify the Context Clue

For each question, identify the type of context clue that helped you determine the answer.

A. Definition **B. Synonym** **C. Example** **D. Explanation** **E. Antonym/Contrast**

21. ____ The terrain was **arid**, meaning extremely dry and lacking rainfall.
22. ____ Unlike his **gregarious** sister, who loved meeting new people, Daniel preferred to spend time alone.
23. ____ The student was **diligent**. She worked hard every evening and never missed an assignment.
24. ____ The instructions were **ambiguous**, or unclear, so several students interpreted them differently.
25. ____ The glass sculpture was **fragile**, so the museum staff placed it behind protective glass to keep it from breaking.