

*Context clues are hints or pieces of information that a reader can use to find out the meanings of unknown words.*

Authors use ***FIVE*** different types of context clues to make the readers understand the text. The clue types are as follows:

- 1. PICTURES**
- 2. DEFINITIONS/EXPLANATION**
- 3. SYNONYMS**
- 4. ANTONYMS/CONTRAST**
- 5. EXAMPLES**

*You need to look at the 'signal words' to guess the correct meanings of unknown words.*

*In definitions words like 'means, referred to, are called' should be noticed.*

*Examples can be identified with words like 'such as, like, for example, for instance'.*

*Guess the antonyms with the help of words like 'but, unlike, although, despite'.*

**1. PICTURES:** If a text or a sentence has a picture along it, this will help you understand the unknown word easily.

e.g. Larry lost some of his stationery items at school.



**2. DEFINITIONS/EXPLANATION:** It explains the exact meaning of the word in the sentence itself.

e.g. We enjoyed playing by a brook (a small river).

**3. SYNONYMS:** Sometimes the writer uses words that are almost the same as the one he expects us not to know.

e.g. After the heavy rains, the stream became murky; and the water became so cloudy that we couldn't see the bottom.

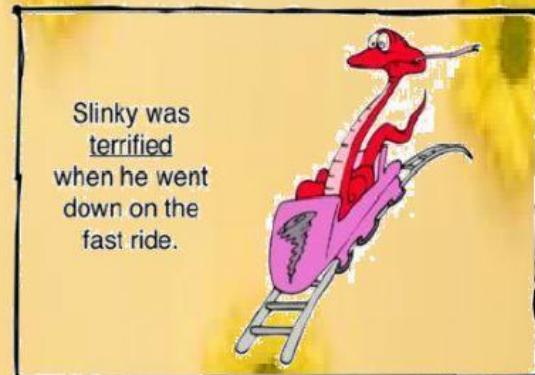
**4. ANTONYMS/ CONTRAST:** Sometimes words with opposite meanings are used to help understand the meaning of a word.  
e.g. He appeared to be rude but after knowing him for some time I found him to be very respectful.

**5. EXAMPLES:** Using examples is also a way to show the meaning of a new word.

e.g. The archeologist found different amulets, such as a rabbit's foot and bags of herb.

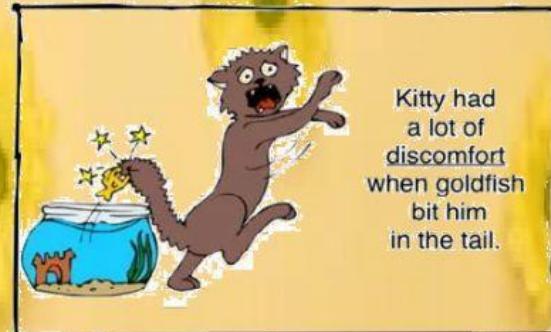
Activity#1: Look at the pictures and guess the meanings of the underlined words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_



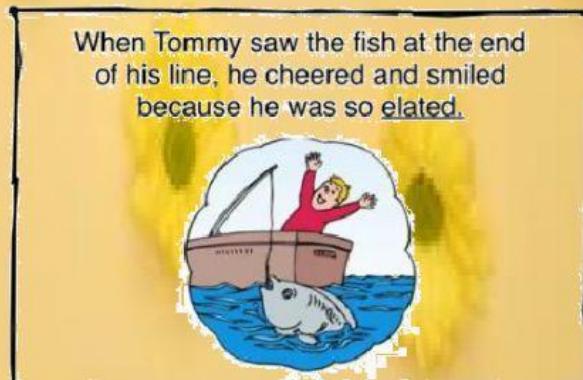
Slinky was terrified when he went down on the fast ride.

2. \_\_\_\_\_



Kitty had a lot of discomfort when goldfish bit him in the tail.

3. \_\_\_\_\_



When Tommy saw the fish at the end of his line, he cheered and smiled because he was so elated.

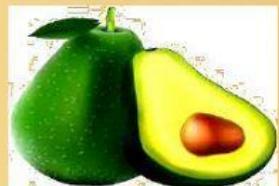
4. \_\_\_\_\_



**Activity#2:** Look at the pictures and guess the meanings of the underlined words from the given options.

i. Put the avocados on the plate.

a) pears      b) fruit      c) seeds



ii. The scientists visited the observatory.

a) outer space      b) a hill in a desert  
c) a special building with a telescope used to watch stars



iii. Look at the leaping gazelles.

a) animals      b) hills  
c) tall trees



**Activity#3:** Drag and drop to guess the meanings of the underlined words.

I wonder if that fruit is edible.

The harlequin, like the circus clown, loved to perform.

I despise milk but love fresh juices.

hate

joker

fit to be eaten

Activity#4: Match and join to guess the meanings of the underlined words.

**COLUMN 'A'**

Janet is very **clumsy**,  
but her sister Jenny is  
**adroit**.

A **biographer**, or one  
who writes about  
people's lives is an  
example of an **author**.

The boy has **anxiety**  
problems. For example,  
when he first went on  
the stage, he began to  
tremble.

**COLUMN 'B'**

**nervousness**

**expert**

**a writer**

Activity#5: Read the given sentences and type the signal word/s that helps us identify the kind of a context clue. One is done for you.

**ANTONYM:** Unlike his problems  
quiet and low key family, Sid is  
**garrulous** (meaning talkative).

**unlike**

**SYNONYM:** **Acrophobia** or the  
fear of heights can make life  
difficult for stuntmen.

**EXAMPLE:** **Phobias** such as fear  
of heights, water or dark are hard  
to overcome.