

Context Clues Worksheet: Using Context to Determine Meaning of Words

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

Part A: Multiple Choice

1. The glass vase was **fragile**, so Mia carefully placed it on the shelf where it would not be knocked over.
What does **fragile** mean?
 - A. Very expensive
 - B. Easily broken
 - C. Extremely heavy
 - D. Very colorful

2. The children were **reluctant** to enter the dark cave. They were hesitant and kept asking if it was safe.
What does **reluctant** mean?
 - A. Excited
 - B. Unwilling or hesitant
 - C. Angry
 - D. Curious

3. The desert was **arid**. It had received almost no rain for several months, and the ground was dry and cracked.
What does **arid** mean?
 - A. Cold
 - B. Windy
 - C. Very dry
 - D. Very crowded

4. Marcus was **elated** when he learned that he had won the science competition. He smiled and jumped up and down with excitement.
What does **elated** mean?
 - A. Extremely happy
 - B. Very tired
 - C. Slightly worried
 - D. Deeply confused

5. The teacher told the students to **conserve** paper by using both sides of each sheet.
What does **conserve** mean?
 - A. Throw away
 - B. Save or use carefully
 - C. Decorate
 - D. Purchase

6. The old house was **dilapidated**. Its windows were broken, the roof was damaged, and the paint was peeling.
What does **dilapidated** mean?
 - A. Newly built
 - B. Carefully decorated
 - C. In poor condition
 - D. Very expensive

7. Sarah was **meticulous** when completing her project. She checked every detail several times to make sure there were no mistakes.

What does **meticulous** mean?

- A. Careless
 - B. Very careful and precise
 - C. Extremely fast
 - D. Easily distracted
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8. The puppy was **timid** around strangers. Instead of running up to them, it hid behind its owner.

What does **timid** mean?

- A. Shy or fearful
 - B. Playful
 - C. Aggressive
 - D. Noisy
-

9. The instructions were **ambiguous**, so the students were confused about what they were supposed to do.

What does **ambiguous** mean?

- A. Easy to understand
 - B. Having more than one possible meaning
 - C. Very long
 - D. Completely incorrect
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10. The storm caused **severe** damage to the town. Several buildings were destroyed, and many roads were flooded.

What does **severe** mean?

- A. Minor
 - B. Serious or extreme
 - C. Temporary
 - D. Unexpected
-

Part B: Context Clues

Directions: Use the clues in each sentence to determine the meaning of the **bold** word. Choose the correct meaning.

11. The lake was **tranquil** in the early morning. The water was still, and there was hardly any wind.

Tranquil means: _____

12. The man's explanation was **concise**. Instead of giving a long speech, he explained his idea in only a few sentences.

Concise means: _____

13. The students were **astonished** when the magician made the elephant disappear. They could hardly believe what they had seen.

Astonished means: _____

14. The coach praised Elena for being **diligent**. She practiced every day and always completed her training exercises.

Diligent means: _____

15. The road was **congested** during rush hour. Cars were packed together, and traffic moved very slowly.

Congested means: _____

16. Jake was **famished** after playing soccer for three hours. He ate two sandwiches, a bowl of soup, and an apple.

Famished means: _____

17. The scientist made a **prediction** about the weather based on the dark clouds and strong winds.

Prediction means: _____

18. The little girl was **perplexed** by the complicated puzzle. She stared at it for several minutes because she could not figure it out.

Perplexed means: _____

Part C: Identify the Context Clue

Directions: Identify the type of context clue used to help determine the meaning of the bold word.

Choose from:

Definition • Example • Synonym • Antonym • Description

19. The animal was **nocturnal**, meaning it is active during the night.

Type of context clue: _____

20. The room was **immaculate**; it was spotless and completely free of dirt.

Type of context clue: _____

21. Unlike his **boisterous** brother, who was loud and energetic, James was quiet and calm.

Type of context clue: _____

22. Many **beverages**, such as water, juice, milk, and tea, were available at the party.

Type of context clue: _____

23. The kitten was **timid**. It stayed in the corner, avoided people, and hid whenever someone came near.

Type of context clue: _____

Part D: Determine the Meaning from Context

Directions: Use the information in the passage to determine the meaning of the bold word. Then choose the best answer.

24. The museum displayed an **enormous** dinosaur skeleton. The skeleton was so large that it nearly touched the ceiling of the building.

What does **enormous** mean?

- A. Very small
- B. Very old
- C. Very large
- D. Very unusual

25. After walking for several hours, the hikers were **weary**. They sat down beside the trail and rested their tired feet.

What does **weary** mean?

- A. Excited
- B. Tired
- C. Hungry
- D. Lost

26. The teacher gave the students a **brief** explanation before the test. She explained the directions in less than two minutes.

What does **brief** mean?

- A. Short
- B. Confusing
- C. Difficult
- D. Detailed

27. The scientist's discovery was **significant** because it could help doctors develop a new treatment for the disease.

What does **significant** mean?

- A. Unimportant
- B. Important
- C. Ordinary
- D. Accidental

28. The boy was **cautious** when crossing the icy bridge. He walked slowly and carefully to avoid slipping.

What does **cautious** mean?

- A. Careless
- B. Careful
- C. Confident
- D. Impatient

29. The directions were **complex**. There were many steps, several rules to follow, and some parts were difficult to understand.

What does **complex** mean?

- A. Simple
- B. Complicated
- C. Short
- D. Helpful

30. The puppy was **famished**, so its owner quickly filled its empty food bowl.

What does **famished** mean?

- A. Very hungry
- B. Very thirsty
- C. Very sleepy
- D. Very frightened