CONTEXT CLUES

What are Context Clues?

Context clues are CLUES found in a text that may help you to figure out the definition of a word that you do not know.

You may find a context clue:

- in the sentence **before** the difficult word
- in the **same** sentence as the difficult word
- in the sentence **after** the difficult word

- Sometimes context clues give a specific **example** to help define the difficult word.

    Example:
    My **s**_____ _____ ng to my
    gam_____

    You _____ there is a
    cont_____ e out what
    it me_____ ster.

- A **context clue** may also include a **word that means the same** thing (a synonym) as the difficult word in the sentence.

    Example:
    The problem of the day was **baffling**. It was too confusing for me to solve.

    You might not know what the word baffling means, but there is a context clue in the next sentence that helps you figure out what it means. The context clue is a synonym of the word baffling. Baffling is another word for confusing.

- A **context clue** may also include a **word that means the opposite** (an antonym) of the difficult word in the sentence.

  Example:
  I am not scared of <u>small</u> spiders but I am definitely scared of that **<u>immense</u>** spider.

  You might not know what the word immense means, but there is a context clue in the same sentence that helps you figure out what it means. The context clue is an antonym of the word immense. Immense means big, which is the opposite of small.

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