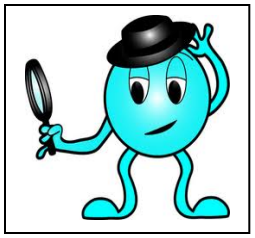
TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES



TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CLUES "SIGNAL WORDS"	EXAMPLE
1. Definition	The author provides a direct (explicit) definition of an unknown word in the sentence.	**Is, are** **Is /are called** **Is / are known as** **Is defined as** **Means, Refers to**	- Martha is a ***curator***, a person who is responsible for looking after a museum's collection. -***Entomology*** is the study of insects. - ***Archeology*** is the scientific study of prehistoric cultures by excavation of their remains.
2. Synonym or Restatement	The author uses a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word or other words in a sentence.	Commas **,** Semicolon **;** Dashes - Parenthesis **( )** Sometimes signal words **or**, **that is**, or **in other words** are used.	**- *Carnivores***, that is, meat eaters, are the top of the food chain. - My best friend ***squandered*** all his money; his drinking and gambling wasted all his earnings. -After seeing the picture of the starving children, we all felt ***compassion*** or pity for their suffering. **-** After a time, ***glaciers***, or slowly moving rivers of ice, formed over many parts of the Earth.
3. Antonym or Contrast	The author uses another word or phrase that means the opposite of an unfamiliar word	Words used are: **But, however, although, otherwise, unless, instead of, on the contrary, on the other hand, while, unlike.**	-Mike's parrot was ***loquacious***, but Maria's said very little. -The gentleman was ***portly***, but his wife was thin. -While Luis is hardworking, his ***indolent*** brother spends most of the time watching TV or sitting around with friends.
4. Comparison	In comparison clues, the author uses words and phrases that have the same or similar meaning as an unfamiliar word.	Words used are: **like, as, similar to, in the same way, likewise, resembling, too, also**	-My brother is ***enthralled*** by birds similar to the way that I am fascinated by insects. - The ***stench*** of the old shoes was like the smell of garbage.

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5. Example / Explanation	The author provides examples or additional explanations or summaries to help you understand an unfamiliar word. The word is cleared up by giving an example.	**For example** **For instance** **Including** **Such as** **Specifically** **To illustrate**	-The archeologist found different ***amulets***, such as a rabbit's foot and bags of herb. -Paula was suspended from school because of several ***infractions*** of the rules, including smoking in the bathroom and dressing improperly. **- Celestial bodies,** *such as the sun, moon, and stars,* are governed by predictable laws.
6. Cause and Effect	The meaning of an unknown word depends on the cause/effect relationship with other words in the text.	**As a result** **Accordingly** **Because, Since** **Consequently** **For this reason** **Hence, if … then**	-Since no one came to the first meeting, attendance for the second one is ***mandatory*** for all staff. - Because the ***conflagration*** was aided by wind, it was so destructive that every building in the area was completely burned to the ground.
7. List or Series	The unfamiliar word is included in a series of related words that give an idea of the word's meaning.	**Look for a list of words**	-North American ***predators*** include grizzly bears, *pumas*, wolves, and foxes. -The **debris** in the stadium stands included numerous paper cups, ticket stubs, sandwich wrappings, and cigarette butts.
8. Inference or General Context	The meaning of an unfamiliar word can be inferred (guessed) from the description of a situation. The author provides non-specific clues, often spread over the sentence or number of sentences.	**Look for clues over several words or sentences**	-The monkey's ***vociferous*** chatter made me wish I had earplugs. - Katie's ***belligerence*** surprised everyone. She threw her book across the room, glared at Chris, and then pushed him to the floor.