



Florida Online Reading Professional Development

Context Clues Chart

Type	Description	Clues/"Flag" Words	Example
Definition	The author provides a direct (explicit) definition of an unknown word in the sentence.	<i>Is</i> <i>Are</i> <i>Means</i> <i>Refers to</i>	Martha is a <i>curator</i> , a person who is responsible for looking after a museum's collection.
Synonym	The author uses a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word or other words in a sentence.	<i>Also</i> <i>As</i> <i>Identical</i> <i>Like</i> <i>Likewise</i> <i>Resembling</i> <i>Same</i> <i>Similar</i> <i>Too</i>	Hurricane Ike caused <i>catastrophic</i> , disastrous damages in Texas.
Antonym	The author uses another word or phrase that means the opposite of an unfamiliar word.	<i>But</i> <i>However</i> <i>In contrast</i> <i>Instead of</i> <i>On the other hand</i> <i>Though</i> <i>Unlike</i>	I thought company cruise would be awkward, but it turned out to be <i>comfortable</i> .
Comparison and Contrast	In comparison clues, the author uses words and phrases that have the same or similar meaning as an unfamiliar word. In contrast clues, the author uses words and phrases that mean the opposite of an unfamiliar word.	<i>Although</i> <i>Conversely</i> <i>Different From</i> <i>However</i> <i>In contrast</i> <i>More than</i> <i>Not only...but also</i> <i>On the other hand</i> <i>Opposite</i>	As the trial continued, the defendant's guilt became more and more obvious. With even the slightest bit of new evidence against him, there would be no chance of <i>acquittal</i> .
Cause and Effect	The unknown word depends on the cause/effect relationship with other words.	<i>As a result of</i> <i>Accordingly</i> <i>Because</i> <i>Consequently</i> <i>For this reason</i> <i>Hence</i> <i>If...then</i>	Since no one came to the first staff meeting, attendance for the second one is <i>mandatory</i> for all staff.



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		<i>Since</i> <i>So</i> <i>Therefore</i> <i>Thus</i>	
Example	The author provides several words that are examples of an unfamiliar word.	<i>For example</i> <i>For instance</i> <i>Including</i> <i>Like</i> <i>Such as</i> <i>That is</i> <i>Specifically</i> <i>To illustrate</i>	In our class we have been studying about causes of <i>global warming</i> such as, carbon dioxide, methane, water vapor, nitrous oxide, and deforestation.
General Clues	The author provides non-specific clues to the meaning of an unfamiliar word, often spread over a number of sentences.	<i>Look for clues over several sentences.</i>	Several people are carpooling to work nowadays. Being able to drive in the midst of high gas prices your car is considered a <i>luxury</i> .