



## Clues for Using Context to Find Meaning

Clue	Description	Signals
Definition	The unfamiliar word is specifically defined in the sentence, or in the preceding or following sentences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “is” or “which means”</li> <li>• commas that set off a qualifying phrase</li> </ul>
Example	The unfamiliar word is illustrated by one or more examples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “for example,” “including,” or “such as”</li> <li>• pictures or diagrams</li> </ul>
Description	Characteristics or features of the unfamiliar word are described.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• descriptive words</li> <li>• sensory words</li> <li>• adjectives and adverbs</li> </ul>
Illustration	The unfamiliar word is shown in a diagram, picture or map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “see figure 2.1”</li> <li>• graphic features on the page</li> </ul>
Clarification	The meaning of the unfamiliar word is restated in slightly different language, summarized, or paraphrased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “in other words,” “simply,” “clearly”</li> </ul>
Parenthetical Note	The meaning of the unfamiliar word is provided in parentheses directly following the word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (.....)</li> </ul>
Comparison	The meaning of the unfamiliar word is provided by contrasting or comparing it to another word, phrase or concept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “such as,” “like,” “compared to,” “unlike” or “similar to”</li> <li>• synonyms, antonyms</li> <li>• charts</li> </ul>
Elaboration	Additional information about the unfamiliar word is provided in the following sentences and paragraphs. This may be a description of a related event, process or product, or a question prompt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “in addition,” “another,” or “consequently”</li> </ul>
Typography and Design	Design features draw attention to important words and concepts, and to their definitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>bold</b>, <i>italics</i>, and other embellishments</li> </ul>