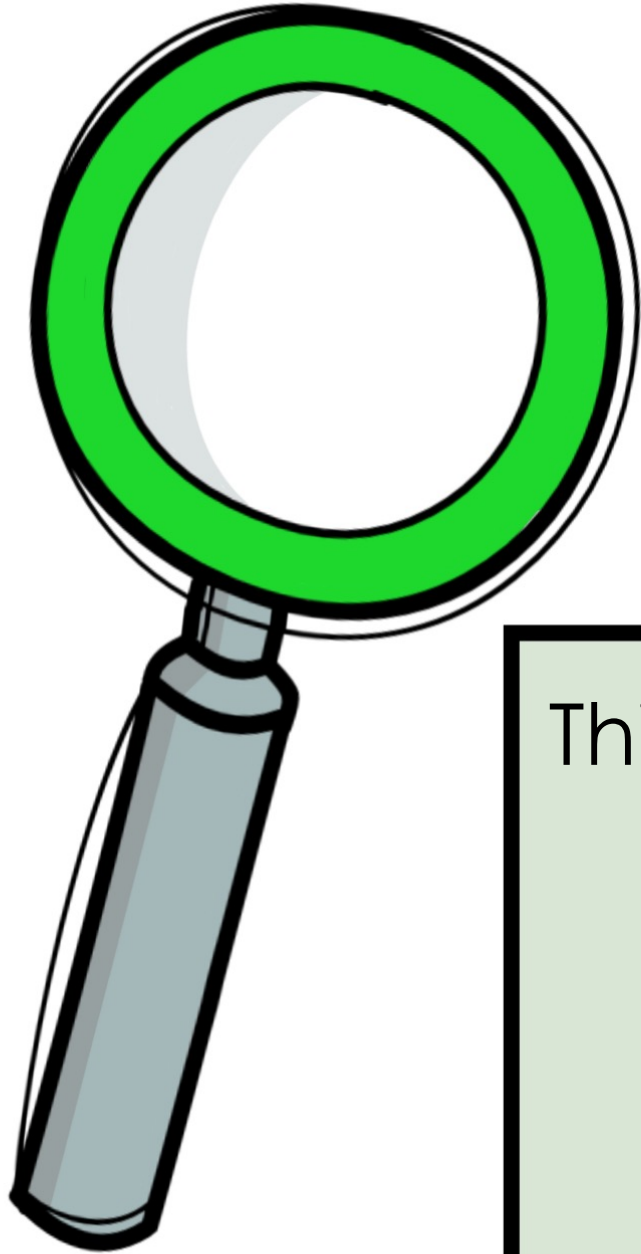


Context Clues



Context clues are hints that an author gives us to help us understand or define the meaning of a difficult or unusual word.

Think of yourself as a detective, using clues to help you find the meaning of the mysterious word.

We will look at four different types of context clues that authors use.

Synonyms

Look for words around your unknown word that might share the **same** meaning. Signal words like also known as, sometimes called, other words help us identify synonyms.

Example: Sam was an **exceptional** musician.
He could play instruments remarkably well.

Antonyms

Look for words around your unknown word that might have the opposite meaning. Signal words like **however** or **but**, help identify antonyms.

Example: Jahkell was an expert musician, but Charlene was a **novice**.

Examples

Sometimes the author gives us an example of what the unknown word means. Words like including, such as, and for example help signal an example context clue.

*Example: **Celestial bodies**, including the sun, moon, and stars, have fascinated man through the centuries.*

Definition

The unknown word might be defined or explained in the same sentence or near the word.

Example: The **dudeen**, a short stemmed clay pipe, is found in Irish folk tales.

If you feel like you have searched and searched for the meaning of a word and still can't find it, make an **inference**.

There may not be context clues for every single word, so you have to use your background knowledge and text clues to **infer word meaning**.

