



Context Clues

When you use **context clues**, you figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by using the words around it. There are four types of context clues.

<p>Explanation or Definition</p>	<p>The author explains or defines a word. The definition may be separated with a comma and words such as <i>or</i> or <i>which means</i>. Here, the definition of <i>bicameral</i> follows the comma.</p> <p>The U.S. Congress is <u>bicameral</u>, which means it has two chambers or houses.</p>
<p>Example Clues</p>	<p>The author gives examples of a word, usually after signal words, such as <i>for example</i> or <i>such as</i>, as shown here:</p> <p>Council members have many <u>obligations</u>, such as going to meetings and reading about new laws.</p>
<p>Synonym Clues</p>	<p>The author gives a word or phrase that is a synonym for a word. In the sentences below, the synonym for <i>reluctant</i> is <i>hesitant</i>.</p> <p>Leaders may be <u>reluctant</u> to vote for unpopular laws. They are <u>hesitant</u> because they might lose the next election.</p>
<p>Antonym Clues</p>	<p>The author gives an antonym for a word. Words such as <i>unlike</i> or <i>on the other hand</i> may signal an antonym is coming. Here, the antonym for <i>ecstatic</i> is <i>unhappy</i>.</p> <p>Voters in this state were <u>ecstatic</u> about the result, unlike the <u>unhappy</u> voters in the state next to ours.</p>

Use context clues to determine the meaning of the **bold** words in each sentence and write it on the line. For each word, use a dictionary to check your definition.

1. The mayor wanted time to **contemplate**, or think about, his decision before he told the public.

My definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

2. The young voters were **zealous** in working for their candidate, unlike the supporters of the other candidate, who were unenthusiastic.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

3. The city government is responsible for **municipal** activities, such as keeping the city streets clean and hosting citywide events.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

4. Some of the most successful legislators are those who are **flexible**. They can adapt and change to get things done.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

5. Voters considered some ideas **extravagant**, such as the wasteful spending of money on 50 snow plows. After all, this city was in the south and had very little snowfall.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

