

**Context clues** are **nearby words** that can help determine the meaning of **unknown words**.

### Examples

<p><b>Context clues</b> can be found within a <b>sentence</b>.</p>	<p>Josef is a <b>sagacious</b> chess player because he is <b>clever and makes wise game moves</b>.</p> <p>The mysterious tomb was filled with ancient <b>relics</b>; such as, <b>pottery, gold jewelry</b>, and <b>handmade weapons</b>.</p>
<p><b>Context clues</b> can be found within a <b>paragraph</b>.</p>	<p>The information leaked in the news story had been <b>fabricated</b>. The source <b>did not</b> exist. In fact, the subject matter of the article was <b>made up</b> by the newspaper.</p>

#### Examples of sentences that do **not** have **context clues**:

- Sagacious individuals like to read books.
- The museum was filled with relics.
- The storyline of the movie was fabricated.

#### CFU

Which sentence has context clues that help determine the meaning of the word *reiterated*? How do you know?

- A** The teacher reiterated the vocabulary words.
- B** The teacher reiterated the vocabulary words three times for the students to practice.

1. Read the paragraph carefully, looking for the **bolded** words.
2. Identify the context clues that help you determine its meaning. (underline)
3. Determine the correct meaning of the **bolded** word. (circle)
4. Use the **bolded** word in a sentence.

### History of the Marathon

1. Since the modern Olympic Games were founded, it has been a tradition for the marathon to be the last event on the athletic events calendar. 2. The name *Marathon* comes from the legend of Pheidippides, a Greek messenger. 3. The legend states that he ran from the battlefield in the city of Marathon all the way to Athens **proclaiming** the Greeks had defeated the Persians in the Battle of Marathon, in 490 B.C.E. 4. To **commemorate**, or recognize, this historic run, the organizers of the modern Olympic Games in 1896 elected to re-create the 26-mile run that would end in Olympic Stadium in Athens. 5. The length of the Olympic marathon was **erratic** at first; for example, the races in the first few Olympic Games were about 40 kilometers (25 miles), roughly the distance from Marathon to Athens. 6. The exact length depends on the route established for each Olympic venue. 7. The marathon of the 2004 Summer Olympics revived the traditional route from Marathon to Athens, ending at the same venue as the 1896 Summer Olympics.

1. The word **proclaiming** most likely means:

- A misleading
  - B concealing
  - C announcing
  - D ignoring
- 

2. The word **commemorate** most likely means:

- A overlook
  - B celebrate
  - C condemn
  - D create
- 

3. The word **erratic** most likely means:

- A not measured
  - B exciting
  - C inconsistent
  - D exhausting
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1. Read the paragraph carefully, looking for the **bolded** words.
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### The “Lost Generation”

1. The “lost generation” is a term used to refer to the generation that grew up during and after World War I. 2. More specifically, it refers to a group of **expatriate** writers and artists who preferred life in Paris instead of America or England, such as Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Ezra Pound. 3. Members of the lost generation were **disillusioned**, or experiencing a sense of moral loss and aimlessness, and changed their views about life, values, faith, and their home country. 4. The “lost generation” had witnessed the old ideals of America fail, and were left searching for new meaning in a world altered by the events of WWI. 5. Their literature and artwork expressed these feelings of meaninglessness. 6. The term became popular after being used in the **epigraph**, similar to a short message, written at the beginning of Ernest Hemingway’s novel *The Sun Also Rises*. 7. The term is said to have been coined by Gertrude Stein after hearing a French mechanic say that those from the “lost generation” (“*une generation perdue*” in French) were incapable of learning a trade or skill because they were adrift or “lost” after the end of WWI.

4. The word **expatriate** most likely means:

- A WWI soldier
  - B young writer
  - C one who has left a home country to live abroad
  - D travel across a country
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5. The word **disillusioned** most likely means:

- A unaware of surroundings
  - B loss of one’s beliefs or naïve ideas
  - C the spreading of news
  - D sad and lonely
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6. The word **epigraph** most likely means:

- A autograph on the title page
  - B artwork on the book cover
  - C note at the beginning of a book
  - D publishing information
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Read the paragraph. Answer the questions.

**Brain Freeze!**

1. Have you ever eaten ice cream too fast and ended up with a splitting headache? 2. The symptoms are usually short-lived, but are painful enough to remind a person to slow down when eating cold food or beverages. 3. This **phenomenon's** scientific name is *sphenopalatine ganglioneuralgia*. It is more commonly known as brain freeze, ice cream headache, or a cranium cramp.

4. When a cold food or beverage touches the roof of the mouth, the blood vessels **constrict**, or narrow. 5. Almost immediately, the tiny vessels begin to dilate again, allowing blood flow to warm up your mouth. 6. The pain receptors in your mouth signal your brain there is a problem, causing "referred pain" from mouth to head. 7. The result: pain in your forehead, or as most confess, "Ahh, brain freeze!"

1. The word **phenomenon** most likely means:

- A scientific experiment
- B experience or event
- C terrible headache
- D reaction to cold temperature

2. The word **constrict** most likely means:

- A lengthen
- B shrink
- C expand
- D multiply

While brain freeze itself isn't dangerous at all, it goes away after about a minute, understanding how it works could lead to medical insights into other, more **debilitating** headaches like migraines.

Xavier correctly determined that **debilitating** means "weaken, or make feeble". What context clues helped him determine the meaning of the word **debilitating**? Explain.

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Read the meaning of the bolded words. Read the paragraph. Underline the context clues in the passage that helps determine the meaning of the bolded words.

1. The word **regenerate** means *regrow*.
2. The word **ailment** means *illness*.
3. The phrase **human genome** means *genetic information*.

### Possibilities of Medical Research

1. At this moment, the full promise of stem cell research remains unknown. 2. But scientists believe these tiny cells may have the potential to help us understand, and possibly cure, some of our most devastating diseases and conditions. 3. We may be able to **regenerate** a severed spinal cord and free someone from a life bound to a wheelchair. 4. We may be able to spur insulin production and spare a child from a lifetime of needles. 5. We may be able to treat Parkinson's disease, cancer, heart disease and other serious **ailments** that affect millions of Americans and the people who love them.

6. But that potential will not reveal itself on its own. 7. Medical miracles do not happen simply by accident. 8. They result from painstaking and costly research -- from years of trial and error, much of which never bears fruit -- and from a government willing to support that work. 9. From life-saving vaccines and pioneering cancer treatments, to the understanding of DNA, chromosomes and sequencing of the **human genome**, the history of scientific progress in America is ever evolving. 10. When the government fails to make investments in medical research, opportunities are missed. 11. Promising avenues go unexplored. 12. Some of our best scientists leave for other countries that will sponsor their work. 13. And those countries may surge ahead of ours in the important advances that transform our health and overall quality of life.

What did you learn today about determining the meaning of unknown words using context clues. (Use words from the word bank)

context clues

determine

unknow words

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Read the paragraph. Answer the questions. Use the bolded word in a sentence.

### Benefits of Snake Venom

1. Most people are fearful of getting too close to a poisonous snake. 2. But scientists searching for better prevention and treatment for disorders, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease and cancer, have been looking to snake venom as a possible answer.

3. A few drugs already exist that have been made from venom found in certain vipers, cobras, and rattlesnakes. 4. For instance, ACE inhibitors, which are used by millions of Americans to treat high blood pressure and other **cardiovascular** problems, are derived from the venom of a poisonous Brazilian snake. 5. These drugs contain certain proteins used to help prevent heart attacks and strokes. 6. Although **preliminary**, these initial studies could help pharmaceutical companies create cancer-fighting drugs and surgeons during heart surgery because chemicals present in snake venom can keep blood from clotting.

7. Snake venom also contains a protein that blocks the spread – or **metastasis** – of cancerous tumors. 8. Research at the University of Southern California suggests that a protein, *contortrostatin*, extracted from copperhead snake venom may slow the growth of tumors in mice implanted with human cancer cells. 9. The venomous compound may prevent cancer cells from sticking to normal, healthy cells and may also suppress the growth of new blood vessels needed for tumor growth.

1. The word **cardiovascular** most likely means:

- A extreme exercise
  - B heart disease
  - C relating to the heart and blood vessels
  - D blood transfusion
- 

2. The word **preliminary** most likely means:

- A prior or coming before
  - B difficult research
  - C limited resource
  - D very important
- 

3. The word **metastasis** most likely means:

- A disease prevention
- B cancer treatment
- C the spreading of a disease
- D cancer tumor

Read the paragraph. Answer the questions. Use the bolded word in a sentence.

### Global Warming

Global warming is the gradual increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and its oceans. It is a change that some believe is permanently altering the Earth's climate. There are many factors that contribute to global warming. Increased amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released by the burning of fossil fuels (e.g., petroleum, coal, and natural gas), deforestation, agriculture, and other human activities are believed to be the chief sources of global warming.

Warming of the climate system is **unequivocal**, and scientists are confident that this undeniable change is primarily caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases. There are two common meanings of the term "greenhouse effect". There is a greenhouse effect that happens naturally, keeping the Earth's climate temperate and **habitable**, and making life as we know it possible. Then, there is a greenhouse effect that is man-made, which boosts the Earth's natural greenhouse effect by adding additional greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Future climate change and the related impacts will vary from region to region around the earth. Some of the long-term effects of a rise in global temperature include a rise in sea levels, a change in amounts of yearly precipitation, and expansion of subtropical deserts. The Arctic would be the hardest hit, and the glaciers would retreat steadily, permafrost would continue, and sea ice would continue to be more likely. Other likely effects of global warming include more frequent occurrences of extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts or heavy rainfall, ocean acidification, and species extinction due to changes in natural habitats. Humans would have to face threats to food availability brought about by decreasing crops and by the loss of habitat from **inundation** like floods. Ways to help reduce greenhouse gas **emissions** into the atmosphere are to conserve energy, use public transportation to cut back on gas pollution, recycle, and use renewable energy such as solar, wind, or hydropower.

1. The word **unequivocal** most likely means:

- A without question      B a mystery      C experimental      D unequal
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2. The word **habitable** most likely means:

- A uncomfortable      B livable      C natural environment      D sterile
- 

Identify the context clues (underline) that help determine the meaning of the following **bolded** words in the text above.

**inundation**- the rising of a body of water and its overflow onto land.

**emissions**- the production and discharge of a substance

Read the paragraph. Answer the questions. Use the bolded word in a sentence.

### Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution was an era of immense economic, technological, social, and cultural changes. Starting in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, industrialization eventually spread to North America. Society was changing from an **agrarian** world economy based on land, farming, and manual labor, to one of growing industry and manufacturing done by machines. For millions of workers and laborers, the industrial revolution changed their daily work. Previously, they might have worked out of their home, in small shops, or outdoors, hand-crafting products, or growing and harvesting personal crops. But new innovations in textiles, iron production, and steam power did away with the old, slower hand tools and simple machines.

Many new inventions and labor practices were implemented during the Industrial Revolution. Advances in agriculture helped to produce an increased food supply. The manufacturing of **textiles** was affected by the advances in agriculture as more cotton and wool were in demand for cloth production. The inventions of the cotton gin and the spinning jenny increased the efficiency and speed with which materials could be prepared. The steam engine was also **integral** to industrialization as it went on to power machinery, locomotives, and ships during the Industrial Revolution.

The Industrial Revolution brought about a larger volume and variety of factory-produced goods and raised the standard of living for many people, **predominantly** the middle and upper classes. On the other hand, life for the poor and working classes continued to be challenging. Wages for laborers in factories were low, and working conditions were sometimes dangerous and tedious. There was little job security and workers were easily replaceable. Children were part of the labor force and often worked long hours.

By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, industrialization had taken root throughout the western part of Europe and America's northeast. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, America had become the world's leading industrial nation.

1. The word **agrarian** most likely means:

- A to live a simple way of life
- B rural or agricultural way of life
- C lifestyle reliant upon machines
- D farmland

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2. The word **integral** most likely means:

- A imported from abroad
- B essential
- C a mathematical concept
- D overlooked

3. From the text we can determine that **innovations** means *a new method or device* because:

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4. How did context clues help you determine the meaning of **textiles**? Explain.

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Read the paragraph. Answer the questions. Use the bolded word in a sentence.

### NATO

On April 4, 1949, 12 independent countries came together to sign the North Atlantic Treaty. Creating what is known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the original members of NATO consisted of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United States. The treaty's purpose was primarily as a security pact, stating that a military attack against any of the **signatories** would be considered an attack against them all. The need for this alliance came as a result of pressure felt by further Communist expansion in Eastern Europe by the Soviet Union and its **affiliated** Communist nations after World War II.

As of today, 28 countries are currently members of NATO, which is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. NATO has agreed upon guidelines not only for peacekeeping between countries and for deterring war, but also crisis management to help prevent conflict between countries before times of potential crisis. Although NATO mainly consists of countries from North America and Europe, in recent years other countries, such as Australia, Japan, and New Zealand, have built partnerships with the organization to support and promote the overall efforts of global peace.

1. The word **signatories** most likely means:

- A country in Europe
- B those who sign an agreement
- C a secret society
- D civilians

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2. The word **affiliated** most likely means:

- A admired by
- B having distant relations
- C connected or associated with
- D unfamiliar

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