

Context Clues

Good readers look for context clues when they come upon an unfamiliar word. Using context clues means that you think about the meaning of all the other words in the sentence to help you figure out the unknown word.

Read each sentence below. Tell what the underlined word means. Circle another word (or group of words) in the sentence that gave you a hint to help you use your context clues.

The boy was exhausted. He had absolutely no energy left.

Exhausted means _____

The alligator looked vicious! It hissed, opening and closing its mouth.

Vicious means _____

Since it is hard to do many things in high heels, my mother says they are impractical.

Impractical means _____

"This cat is enormous!" the veterinarian exclaimed when the scale reached 30 pounds.

Enormous means _____

The illusion was amazing! I don't understand how the magician tricked us.

Illusion means _____

I like to indulge in desserts! On Thanksgiving Day I ate apple pie, chocolate cake, pumpkin pie, and had ice cream.

Indulge means _____

When using context clues to understand unfamiliar words, I feel:

___ confident

___ unsure

___ I need help.

Context Clues Answer Key

Good readers look for context clues when they come upon an unfamiliar word. Using context clues means that you think about the meaning of all the other words in the sentence to help you figure out the unknown word.

Read each sentence below. Tell what the underlined word means. Circle another word (or group of words) in the sentence that gave you a hint to help you use your context clues.

The boy was exhausted. He had absolutely no energy left.
Exhausted means tired or worn out. (clue: no energy left)

The alligator looked vicious! It hissed, opening and closing its mouth.
Vicious means aggressive, scary, or angry. (clue: hissed, opening mouth)

Since it is hard to do many things in high heels, my mother says they are impractical.
Impractical means not helpful or sensible. (clue: hard to do many things)

"This cat is enormous!" the veterinarian exclaimed when the scale reached 30 pounds.
Enormous means large, big, huge..... (clue: the scale reached 30 pounds)

The illusion was amazing! I don't understand how the magician tricked us.
Illusion means fake eye/brain trick (or something similar). (clue: tricked)

I like to indulge in desserts! On Thanksgiving Day I ate apple pie, chocolate cake, pumpkin pie, and had ice cream.
Indulge means to enjoy with reckless abandon. (clue: number of desserts)