

Context Clues Organizer

Target Word

1. Context Clues in Sentence

2. Context Clues in Nearby Sentences

3. Definition Based on Context Clues

4. "Real" Definition

**This organizer can be drawn or recreated as a foldable.

Context Clues: Parent Tip Card

Students need word-learning strategies because we cannot provide them with direct instruction in the meaning of all unfamiliar words. Using context clues helps a student to infer the meaning of an unfamiliar word by analyzing text that is near it.

Students benefit from learning about five types of context clues: definition, example, synonym, antonym, and general.

Types of Context Clues

Type	Description	Example
definition	A definition of the unfamiliar word is stated directly in the text. SIGNAL WORDS: is, are, means, refers to	An American Goldfinch is a <u>small, yellow bird</u> . OR The American Goldfinch, a <u>small yellow bird</u> , is common in California.
synonym	Another word or phrase that is similar in meaning is used in the text. SIGNAL WORDS: also, as, identical, like, likewise, same, similarly, too, or	A school, or <u>group</u> , of fish moves in a harmonious pattern through the water.
antonym	Another word or phrase that is opposite in meaning is used in the text. SIGNAL WORDS: but, however, in contrast, instead of, on the other hand, though, unlike	I thought a tomato was a vegetable, <u>but</u> it turns out to be a <u>fruit</u> .
example	The text includes words or phrases that are examples of the unfamiliar word. SIGNAL WORDS: for example, including, such as	To use less salt in cooking, try fresh herbs, such as <u>basil, oregano, and rosemary</u> .
general	Nonspecific clues are spread over several sentences in a text.	Lacrosse is becoming more popular. <u>Players</u> have to be able to <u>run up and down the field</u> . They also have to use a <u>stick with a little net</u> to throw the ball and make goals.