Vocabulary in Context

How to hunt down the meaning of a word by using the clues around it
What is Vocabulary in Context?

Let's break it into two parts

“Vocabulary”
(words in your text books)

+ 

“In Context”
(how those words relate to the words around them)

Our Final Calculation:
Better Vocabulary Skills Which = Better Comprehension Which = Better Grades!
How Does Vocabulary in Context work?

Most writers leave context clues as they write. It is our job as the reader to hunt them down!
There are 4 main types of Context Clues

The 4 Types

- Rewording the word.
- Giving its Synonym.
- Giving its Antonym.
- Giving us Details about the word.
Context Clues: Rewording

Rewording is when the author says the word in another way, that is typically easier to understand.
Context Clues: Rewording

Let’s Look at an Example:

Resentment, a feeling of bitterness and anger, is often felt by people who are passed over for promotions.

What does the word resentment mean in this sentence?
Context Clues:
Rewording

Let's look at this sentence a little more closely for CLUES!
Resentment, a feeling of bitterness and anger, is often felt by people who are passed over for promotions.
Now You Give It A Try!

The Cruise family moved from their dilapidated house, that was old and run-down, into a brand new home.

What does the word *dilapidated* mean here?

HINT: In **REWORDING**, the context clues are often hidden between commas!
The Cruise family moved from their dilapidated house, that was old and run-down, into a brand new home.

Did you find the Context Clue?
A writer sometimes uses **synonym** context clues to help with hard words. A **synonym** context clue is one or two words that mean almost the same as the one that the author does not expect us to know.
Context Clues: Synonyms

Let’s Look at an Example:

The young girl was very aloof. She always seemed unsociable, unapproachable, and uninterested.

What does the word *aloof* mean in this sentence?
Context Clues: Synonyms

Did You Notice Any Clues?
The young girl was very aloof. She always seemed unsociable, unapproachable, and uninterested.
The young girl was very aloof. She always seemed unsociable, unapproachable, and uninterested.

All three of these words are synonyms to help us with the original word aloof.
The three brothers began to **altercate** over the game. This was not the first time that they had a dispute over it.

What does the word **altercate** mean here?

**HINT:** **SYNONYM** context clues are often hidden in surrounding sentences!
Context Clues: Synonyms

The three brothers began to altercate over the game. This was not the first time that they had a dispute over it.

Did you find any Context Clues????
Context Clues: Antonyms

A writer is using antonym context clues when they use a word with opposite meaning to give us hints about the word that they don’t think we will know.
Context Clues: Antonyms

Let’s Look at an Example:

Dianna appeared to be a very moral and upstanding young lady, but those who knew her knew that she was iniquitous.

What does the word iniquitous mean in this sentence?
Antonym Context Clues often take a little more detective work to understand.
Context Clues: Antonyms

There is a special word in this sentence that hints at the presence of an antonym.

Dianna appeared to be a very moral and upstanding young lady, but those who knew her knew that she was iniquitous.

The word BUT tells us that the two parts of the sentence represent opposite points of view about Dianna.
The two opposite points of view are:

1. That Dianna is moral and upstanding.
2. That she is iniquitous.

Dianna appeared to be a very young lady, but those who knew her knew that she was iniquitous.

Iniquitous must mean evil and immoral.
Context Clues: Antonyms
Now You Give It A Try!

David was very outgoing as opposed to his coy older sister.

What does the word *coy* mean here?

HINT: **ANTONYM** context clues always have hint words to tell us that there are opposites present!
Context Clues: **Antonyms**

Did you find the hint words?

David was very outgoing as opposed to his coy older sister.

*Coy must mean the opposite of outgoing!*
Context Clues: Details

A writer is using **details** as context clues when they give us explanations or examples as hints about the word that they don’t think we will know.
Context Clues: Details

There are several different kinds of Context Clues that are Details.

- **Details** that are examples of the unknown word.
- **Details** that tell why the unknown word has taken place.
- **Details** that explain how the word relates to other things the author has stated.
Context Clues: Details

Let’s Look at an Example:

Father was ecstatic because Joshua decided to go to the college that his father wanted him to.

What does the word ecstatic mean in this sentence?
Context Clues: Details

Let's find those context clues!
Context Clues: Details
There is a special word in this sentence that hints at the presence of a detail.

Father was ecstatic because Joshua decided to go to the college that he wanted him to.

The word BECAUSE tells us that the writer is about to say why Father was ecstatic.

Ecstatic must mean the same as happy!
Now You Give It A Try!

Brian was expeditious when he left the school building. He ran through the halls, jumped in his car, and sped off.

What does the word expeditious mean here?
Did you figure out what types of details the writer is giving us about how Brian left school?

Brian was expeditious when he left the school building. He ran through the halls, jumped in his car, and sped off.

Expeditious Must Mean FAST!
There are 4 main types of Context Clues

- Rewording the word.
- Giving its Synonym.
- Giving its Antonym.
- Giving Details about it.
Context Clues: Practice

The next few slides are sentences with context clues that you can hunt out on your own. Write down your answers as you go along.
Mallery’s mom thought that the new outfit that she had bought for her was modish. Mallery did not want to break it to her, but it was totally out of style.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word modish mean in this sentence?
Mallery’s mom thought that the new outfit that she had bought for her was **modish**. Mallery did not want to break it to her, but it was totally out of style.

This context clue was an **Antonym**. Here, **modish** means the same as **stylish**.
Insomnia, not being able to sleep at night, can be linked to an excessive intake of caffeine throughout the day.

Questions:

Which type of context clue is being used here?

What does the word \textit{insomnia} mean in this sentence?
Insomnia, not being able to sleep at night, can be linked to an excessive intake of caffeine throughout the day.
The woman enjoyed the savor of the soup. It had a hint of spices balanced with the perfect amount of sweetness.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word savor mean in this sentence?
The woman enjoyed the savor of the soup. It had a hint of spices balanced with the perfect amount of sweetness.

This context clue was a Detail. Here, savor means the same as flavor.
Context Clues: Practice #4

The day had proven to be very torrid. Before the sun had even risen, it was already hot outside.

Questions:

Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word torrid mean in this sentence?
The day had proven to be very \textit{torrid}. Before the sun had even risen, it was already hot outside.

This context clue was a \textit{synonym}. Here, \textit{torrid} means the same as \textit{hot}.
Though many types of birds fly in groups, Eagles are birds of solitude.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word solitude mean in this sentence?
Though many types of birds fly in groups, Eagles are birds of **solitude**.

This context clue was an antonym. Here, **solitude** means to be alone.