



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(**An Autonomous Institution**)

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COURSE NAME : 23ENT101 COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

I YEAR /I SEMESTER

Unit I-

Topic : Reading and Understanding the Context





Context Clues



Context Clues are hints that the author gives to help define a difficult or unusual word. The clue may appear within the same sentence as the word to which it refers, or it may follow in a preceding sentence.



WHY IS CONTEXT IMPORTANT IN READING?



- **Context** is not only **important** for meaning. It can also help build self-awareness, creativity, and learning.
- **Context** is **importance** because it helps you connect and create a relationship with the **reader**.
- It helps you communicate your point of view clearly making it easier to understand.



Types of context clues



IDEAS

I – INFERENCE

D- DEFINITION

E- EXAMPLE

A – ANTONYM

S - SYNONYM



INFERENCE

The meaning of an unfamiliar word can be inferred (guessed) from the description of a situation.(Our key word here is guessed)

EX: Their **vociferous** chatter made me wish I had earplugs.

EX: She was so **famished** that people felt so sorry for her and gave her food to eat.



DEFINITION



The meaning of an unfamiliar word is directly explained in the sentence....

Signal words are

Is, are

Is/are called

That is

Is defined

Means

Refers to

Example

He knew his future was **precarious** which means likely to fall apart.

His **emaciation**, that is, His skeleton-like appearance, was frightening to see



Example

Example

An example of the word is in the sentence or nearby sentences

Signal words are...

For example

For instance

Including

Such as

Specifically

To illustrate

Example:

Celestial bodies, such as the sun, moon and stars, are governed by predictable laws.

Ashwin was suspended from school because of several **infraction** of the rules, including smoking in the bathroom and dressing improperly.



Antonym



A word with opposite meaning is used in a sentence or nearby sentence...

Signal words are...

But

However

Although

Unless

Instead of

On the contrary

While

Unlike

Example:

While Sam is hardworking, his **indolent** brother spends most of the time watching TV or sitting around with friends

Jai is calm and quite, but his brother is **boisterous**.



Synonym



Words with similar meaning are used in or near the sentence.

Signal words are...

Commas

Semicolon

Or

That is

In other words

Example:

His animosity, or **hatred**, of his brother divided the family.

It was an idyllic say- **sunny, warm and perfect** for a walk in the park.



Choose the correct meaning of the underlined word, and identify the type of context clue used: inference, definition, example, antonym, or synonym



1 . I meandered through the Robinsons mall taking time looking at all the clothes in the windows.

a. hurried b. ran c.wandered d. jogged

2.The **debris** on the Basketball court included numerous paper cups, ticket stubs and cigarette butts.

a. products b. papers c. trash

3.The coach takes every opportunity to **censure** his players, yet he ignores every opportunity to praise them.

a. approve of b.criticize c.choose



Choose the correct meaning of the underlined word, and identify the type of context clue used: inference, definition, example, antonym, or synonym

4. Peter was filled with **mortification**, or shame, because of her careless remark.

- a. proud b. shame c. confident

5. Karina was **indignant** which means she was fuming mad when she discovered her brother had left for the party without her.

- a. Calm b. excited c. very angry



PURPOSE OF UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY FROM THE CONTEXT

As we flew north over countries like Botswana and Zambia, we saw fewer and fewer people, only huge areas of desert dotted with some small villages. I often wonder how these people survive in such a hostile environment. Finally we reached Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda. The skies were filled with dark grey clouds and in the distance I thought I heard the sound of thunder. I had been reading about the civil war there recently and so wasn't surprised to find that Kigali International Airport was crowded with soldiers although they didn't really look like soldiers; most of them were barefoot, wearing jeans and T-shirts but they were all carrying weapons and they were all wearing berets.



- What are berets? No idea.
- What were they doing with the berets?
- They were wearing berets. This tells us that the berets are an item of clothing or some other personal belonging that people wear.
- Who was wearing the berets?
- Soldiers were wearing berets. This should indicate to us that the berets are an item of military uniform.
- But which item of military uniform?
- The soldiers were barefoot, wearing T - shirts and jeans, carrying guns and wearing berets. This allows us to eliminate army boots, green uniform tops and trousers and firearms which leaves us with headwear.