**GUESSING WORD MEANING**

It is the ability to infer the meaning of an unknown word by looking at the vocabulary around it or its context is an important reading skill. The context here refers to the sentence or paragraph where the unfamiliar word appears, which provides the reader with information to make sense of the term.

You do not always know every word in a passage. But you can often guess the words you do not know. You can tell what kind of word the unknown word must be. Guessing means not to use the dictionary.

**Tips:**

* Use words surrounding unknown words to determine its meaning.
* Give a logical guess based on the facts or evidence presented using prior knowledge to help "read between the lines".
* Take a sentence from a text. Have students state the explicit meaning. Then have students guess the inferential meaning.

**TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES:** Context clues are words or phrases in the sentence or paragraph that help the reader to figure out the meaning of the unknown word. *There are 3 types of clues that can be used to support the reading comprehension.*

**1. Synonyms:** It is a word or phrase that means the same or is very similar to another word.

**2. Antonyms and contrast:** Antonyms are words that mean the opposite of other words. Antonyms can refer to the opposed idea of an unknown word in the sentence or paragraph.

**3. General Knowledge:** Sometimes it is necessary to rely on your own experience and background knowledge to figure out the meaning of a word. Read all the words surrounding the unknown term to help you draw conclusions based on the complimentary information found in the text.

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<http://www.myenglishpages.com/blog/guessing-meaning-from-context/>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/using-context-clues-understand-word-meanings>