

**Vocabulary: Context Clues (R.1.3.1)**  
**Samples for Determining the Meaning of Words in Context**

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**Definitions**

Tents are moveable houses.

Families live in groups of rooms called apartments on each floor.

Observing means looking carefully at something.

Matter can be defined as anything that takes up space.

Solids have a definite shape and take up a definite amount of space.

Sharks even have teethlike scales called denticles all over their bodies.

**Restatements**

They both need oxygen, a gas in air and water, to live.

Like you, all fish have a framework, or skeleton, that gives their bodies a shape.

The buds stay dormant, or inactive, through winter.

**Examples**

We identify a material by its properties: the way it looks, feels, tastes, smells, and behaves.

Measuring a material can tell us about some of its properties. For example, we place a material on a scale to find out its weight. To find out how much space a liquid takes up, we pour it into a container marked with standard measurements.

In the stomach the food is broken down into its basic parts, or nutrients, such as proteins and vitamins.

Objects made of ceramic, like this vase, are brittle.

**Descriptions**

Squirrels build beautiful homes for themselves in the tree tops. These are called dreys. A drey has two rooms, one of which is like a nursery for the young.

Binoculars make faraway things look closer. Scientists use binoculars to observe animals in their natural habitats.

Squirrels are delightful little creatures, but they can be destructive. In a garden they like to pull up new plants, eat bulbs and even bite the tops off very young trees.

Today our first froglet came out of the water. The froglet looked like a frog, but it still has its tail.

Because liquids flow, they do not have a definite shape. They assume the shape of their container.

**Comparison/contrast**

A magnifying glass is one kind of observation tool.

Microscopes are more powerful than magnifying glasses. They can make very small things look much larger.

Telescopes also make faraway things look closer. They are more powerful than binoculars and are mainly used to observe objects in outer space.

Like plastic, glass is a formless solid.

Balloons filled with helium gas float upward when they are released in the air. This happens because helium is less dense than air.

**Clue words**

The small photo below shows a close-up of a plant called a diatom. If you scooped up a bucketful of seawater at the beach, it might contain lots of these tiny living things.

When iron rusts, it is being slowly changed by the oxygen and water vapor in the air. The resulting material is rust.

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