

# **Context Clues**

**Robi Alstrom  
ESSDACK**

# Context

- **Synonym**
- **Antonym**
- **Definition/Explanation**
- **Example**



# Helpful Context Clues

## Definition

The author provides a direct definition of an unfamiliar word right in the sentence.

*A conga is a barrel-shaped drum.*

An appositive definition is set off by commas.



Signal Words

is

are

means

refers to

# Helpful Context Clues

## Synonym

The author uses another word or phrase that is similar in meaning, or can be compared, to an unfamiliar word.

*My dog Buck travels everywhere with me. My friend's canine buddy travels everywhere with him, too.*



## Signal Words

also  
as  
identical  
like  
likewise  
resembling  
same  
similarly

# Helpful Context Clues

## Antonym

The author uses another word or phrase that means about the opposite of, or is in contrast with, an unfamiliar word.

*I thought the movie would be weird, but it turned out to be totally mundane.*



## Signal Words

but  
however  
in contrast  
instead of  
on the other hand  
though  
unlike

# Helpful Context Clues

## Example

The author provides several words or ideas that are examples of an unfamiliar word.

*In science we are studying marine mammals such as whales, dolphins and porpoises.*



Signal Words

for example

for instance

including

like

such as