

COURSE: **Destination Reading III** 

UNIT 11: Don't Clown Around: Looking at

**Circus Life** 



## Vocabulary Strategy: Context Clues (Synonyms and Antonyms)

Complete the following items to practice the vocabulary strategy for this unit.

Circle the synonym in each sentence that helps you understand the meaning of the bold word or phrase. If there is a signal word or phrase in the sentence, underline it.

## Learning Objective:

 Use knowledge of context clues to determine the meanings of synonyms and antonyms.

- **1.** The **indigo** bird's feathers shone deep blue in the sunlight.
- 2. "It was scorching," Larry said, "and I mean really hot."
- **3.** She saw the child **dangling** the cat over the railing. "Why are you letting it hang down like that?" she asked.
- **4.** Their **guffawing** was so loud that Jorge had to wait until the laughter died down before continuing his performance.
- 5. He was the most hapless person Laura had ever known. In other words, he had no luck at all.
- **6.** "Spot" was an **apt** name for the dog. It was a fitting name because he had brown spots on his fur.
- 7. When she **hurled** the ball across the field, I said, "I didn't know you could throw like that!"

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Use the antonyms in each sentence to help you figure out the meaning of the underlined words. The underlined words are already in the first column of the table. Write the antonym of each word beside it. Then, in the second column, use the antonyms to work out the meaning of each underlined word. In the third column, list any signal words you find. Some sentences do not contain signal words.

- **1.** When she accidentally pushed the beautiful cake off the table, the child <u>demolished</u> what her mother had created.
- 2. The cashier was polite, unlike the customer, who was quite curt to her.
- 3. "I'm not groggy," Ana insisted. "I'm wide awake."
- **4.** Dominic's father said the map was simple, but when Dominic looked at it, he saw it was actually quite <u>complex</u>.
- **5.** It was difficult to <u>conceal</u> the surprise party from her parents. She wanted to tell them so badly!
- **6.** Their <u>descent</u> off the mountain was much easier than climbing up had been.
- **7.** The weather was perfect in the morning but <u>flawed</u> by a thunderstorm in the afternoon.
- **8.** Chen's parents taught him that it was always better to tell the truth rather than a falsehood.



Antonyms	Meanings	Signal Words
1. demolished/		
2. curt/		
3. groggy/		
4. complex/		
5. conceal/		
6. descent/		
7. flawed/		
8. falsehood/		

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