Stop – no need to run to the dictionary! The meaning of the word you don't know may be right there in the text!

Use...
Context Clues

What are Context Clues?

- Context Clues are words in and around a sentence containing an unknown word. The clues help us understand the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

- Knowing about Context Clues is especially useful for _content_ area reading. Content area reading is reading that you do in different subject areas such as social studies, science and even math!

There are <u>four</u> common types of context clues to look for:

Synonyms

Antonyms

Examples or Explanations

Definitions

Context Clues as a <u>Synonym</u>

A synonym is: a word with a meaning similar to another word

So…
Look for the word in the sentence that could be a synonym for the unknown word:

There was **pandemonium**, or chaos among the fans when their team won the Super Bowl.

pandemonium = chaos

Context Clues as an <u>Antonym</u>

An antonym is: a word with a meaning opposite of another word

Antonym context clues are a little trickier. You need to look for words in the sentence which Indicate an opposite meaning:

<u>Some c</u>hildren were willing to play in the snow, <u>but others</u> were **reluctant** because it was so cold.

reluctant = not willing

What words helped you know?

Context Clues as a <u>Definition</u>

These are common types of clues especially in social studies and science!

The meaning of the vocabulary word is in the sentence itself. It often follows the unknown word.

*In order to become law, all 13 colonies had to **ratify**, or approve, the Constitution.*

ratify = approve

Right there!! ☺

Context Clues as an <u>Example</u>

This type of context clue uses examples to help explain the meaning of the unknown word.

Nutritious foods, such as fruits and vegetables, help our bodies grow.

nutritious = healthy

What <u>examples</u> were given?

fruits and vegetables

Context Clues as an Explanation

This type of context clue uses an explanation or description of a situation or experience to help us infer the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

I was **aghast** when I found my neighbor had robbed the jewelry store and stolen $100,000 in diamonds!

Given this situation, how would you feel?

aghast = shocked

- *Sometimes the context clues aren't obvious.*

- *You will need to use your background knowledge and the words being used to infer or draw a conclusion.*

- *How you interpret the word can affect your overall understanding of the text.*

Slow down and read carefully when you encounter unfamiliar words!

Are you ready for a little fun?

Can you use context clues to guess the meaning of a *nonsense* word?

I love my **peramangada**. I got him when I was in first grade. He has four short legs and gray hair. He does not like strangers, especially when they come around my house.

My **peramangada** sleeps at the foot of my bed every night. When I come home from school, he always tries to jump up and lick my face. My **peramangada** is so cute!

Wouldn't you love a sweet peramangada like mine?

One more chance to prove our smarts!

Can we name the Context Clue type?

The monkey's *vociferous* chatter made me wish I had earplugs.

Explanation

"Unlike John's room, which was **immaculate**, Jeff's room was very messy."

Antonym

Many companies are **downsizing**, or reducing the number of employees they have, in order to save money.

Definition

We remembered to bring all the **provisions**, such as food, water and warm clothing on the hike.

Example

Her quiet, **timid** ways made it hard for her to make friends.

Synonym