

Clue or No Clue?

Decide when nearby words reveal a meaning.

4L4.a "Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase."

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLEAR CONTEXT

Words nearby tell what the bold word means. Look for a definition, an example, or another way to say it.

The soup was **scalding**, or hot enough to burn your mouth.

UNCLEAR CONTEXT

Words nearby do not tell what the bold word means. You would need another strategy, such as a dictionary.

Jalen walked past the **tavern**.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle CLEAR or UNCLEAR for each sentence, then for Part 2, pick two items and explain which nearby words did or did not help you.

1. The cave was **dim**, meaning it had only a little light.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

2. Mia admired the **ornate** necklace, with its many fancy decorations.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

3. A **peculiar** bird landed nearby.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

4. The dog began to **whimper**, making soft, sad cries.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

5. The artist chose a **vivid** paint color.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

6. Tariq placed the **parcel** on the shelf.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

7. The twins were **exhausted** after running five miles, so they were very tired.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

8. The trail was **steep**, so it rose sharply uphill.

CLEAR

UNCLEAR

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence for CLEAR and one new sentence for UNCLEAR. Underline the word whose meaning a reader should figure out.

CLEAR _____

UNCLEAR _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that teaches an unfamiliar word by giving examples. Use *such as* or *for example*, and underline the clue words.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The cave was dim , meaning it had only a little light.	CLEAR	The phrase "meaning it had only a little light" defines dim.
2	Mia admired the ornate necklace, with its many fancy decorations.	CLEAR	The description "many fancy decorations" explains ornate.
3	A peculiar bird landed nearby.	UNCLEAR	The sentence gives no meaning clue for peculiar.
4	The dog began to whimper , making soft, sad cries.	CLEAR	The phrase "making soft, sad cries" restates whimper.
5	The artist chose a vivid paint color.	UNCLEAR	The sentence does not explain what vivid means.
6	Tariq placed the parcel on the shelf.	UNCLEAR	The sentence gives no clear meaning clue for parcel.
7	The twins were exhausted after running five miles, so they were very tired.	CLEAR	The words "very tired" restate exhausted.
8	The trail was steep , so it rose sharply uphill.	CLEAR	The phrase "rose sharply uphill" explains steep.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR:** The fragile vase could break easily if it fell.
- **UNCLEAR:** Nora looked at the obelisk beside the river.

Challenge: Many **nocturnal** animals, such as bats and owls, are active at night.

For Part 2, students should name the category and cite the definition, description, or restatement, or explain that no nearby words reveal the meaning. Accept varied Part 3 and challenge responses when the context clearly matches the chosen category.