

Meaning from Context

Use the words around a word as evidence.

7.2.B “use context such as contrast or cause and effect to clarify the meaning of words; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the clue details around each target word: provisional, meticulous, impassable, dwindled and sporadic.

Five Contexts

1. Use a contrast

A. Unlike the permanent exhibit, which would stay for years, the provisional display would remain only until the new cases arrived.

B. Jalen's notes were meticulous: each measurement had a date, unit and label. His earlier notes had been careless, with missing numbers and mixed-up units.

2. Connect a cause and its result

C. Heavy rain washed away part of the road, leaving a gap too wide for a vehicle to cross. The road became impassable, so the delivery truck had to turn back.

D. The club bought no new paper, but members used several sheets each day. Its supply dwindled until only three sheets remained.

3. Check the whole context

E. Unlike the steady beeping that continued without a pause, the sporadic knocks came once, stopped for several minutes, and then returned at an unpredictable time.

These are fictional examples. For each target word, infer a meaning, identify the exact clue, and explain the connection. A signal word alone is not enough evidence. Check that your meaning fits the whole sentence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 A. What does provisional mean here? Give the contrasting detail that supports your inference.

2 B. What does meticulous mean? Explain how both sets of notes help you decide.

3 C. Infer impassable. Explain how the cause and the truck's response support your meaning.

4 D. Infer dwindled. What caused the change, and what result confirms it?

5 E. Does sporadic mean quiet or irregular? Use a specific clue to justify your choice.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Read this new context: "The group agreed on a tentative schedule that morning, but they could still change it. By Friday they would choose a final schedule that would not change." Infer tentative, explain the contrast, and check your meaning by substituting it in the first sentence.

Meaning, evidence and check

Write a short explanation with the inferred meaning, a quoted or paraphrased clue, and your substitution check.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the clue details around each target word: provisional, meticulous, impassable, dwindled and sporadic. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A. What does provisional mean here? Give the contrasting detail that supports your inference.	Temporary or not yet permanent: unlike an exhibit staying for years, it remains only until the new cases arrive.
2	B. What does meticulous mean? Explain how both sets of notes help you decide.	Very careful and thorough: the new notes include every date, unit and label, unlike the earlier careless notes with missing or mixed-up information.
3	C. Infer impassable. Explain how the cause and the truck's response support your meaning.	Unable to be traveled through or crossed: rain made a gap too wide to cross, causing the truck to turn back.
4	D. Infer dwindled. What caused the change, and what result confirms it?	Gradually became smaller or less: paper was used without being replaced, leaving only three sheets.
5	E. Does sporadic mean quiet or irregular? Use a specific clue to justify your choice.	Irregular: knocks stop for several minutes and return unpredictably, unlike steady beeping. The context does not establish their loudness.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**Sample transfer response**

Tentative means not yet final or settled. "Could still change it" contrasts with the later final schedule that would not change. Replacing tentative with "not yet final" preserves the meaning: the group agreed on a schedule that was not yet final.

TEACHER ASSESSMENT NOTES

Accept accurate synonyms with specific contextual evidence. Require meaning, clue and explanation. All examples are fictional.