

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY SHEET  
CONTEXT CLUES STANDARD FOUR

Curriculum Topic: Vocabulary

Teaching Point: Writers use Context Clues to assist readers with understanding of text.



In Context Clues 1 & 2 we learnt four different Context Clues used by writers.

They are:

Definition/description clue

E.g. The **arbitrator**, *the neutral person chosen to settle the dispute*, arrived at his decision.

**Signal words:** is, are, means

Example clue

E.g.: **Celestial** bodies, including *the sun, moon, and stars*, have fascinated man through the years.

**Signal words:** for example, for instance, including

Synonym Clue

E.g.: The mountain pass was a **tortuous** road, *winding and twisting* like a snake around the trees of the mountainside.

**Signal words:** same, like, also, or

Antonym Clue

Example: Unlike Jamal's room which was **immaculate**, Joe's room was *messy*.

**Signal words:** but, however, although, unlike

Note: Always pay attention to the signal words as they may allow you to identify the Context Clue and understand the unknown word or phrase.

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**Activity**



**Read the passage and use your knowledge of Context Clues to determine the meanings of the underlined words. Identify the type of context clue used.**

Mary enjoys making desserts, including cakes and cookies. She believes that some foods can be unhealthy and make you weak or feeble. Her kitchen is never in disarray but well organised. Her favourite cable channel is 'The Food Network'. She appreciates the banter, joking conversation, among the contestants. If anything prevents or hinders her from viewing the baking show, she becomes very unhappy. Whenever she tries a new dish, she reads the instructions carefully.

Mary is unlike her sister Jen. Jen seems unable to cook or even bake a good bread. She lacks the skill. However, Mary has the deftness for baking. She is unafraid of a baking challenge. Jen is quite the opposite with challenges; she is scared. Her friends, or colleagues, believe she stopped trying after the almost fire incident in her attempt to flambé a chicken. Flambé is a cooking procedure in which alcohol is added to a hot pan to create a burst of flames

Incidents like that would never happen to Mary. She takes precautions to ensure all goes well in her kitchen. It is always a delight to visit Mary after she has completed her baking. Everyone gets a hefty serving. For example, two slices of cake and three cookies. Jen believes that Mary is just unable to say no to her friends who always want more food.

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**Complete the table.**

<b>Words</b>	<b>Meanings</b>	<b>Types of Context Clues</b>
desserts		
feeble		
disarray		
banter		
hinders		
deftness		
scared		
colleagues		
flambé		
hefty serving		

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Answer Key



Words	Meanings	Types of Context Clues
desserts	something sweet to eat	example
feeble	weak	synonym
disarray	messy, disorganised	antonym
banter	joking conversation among people	definition
hinders	prevents, stops	synonym
deftness	skill, ability	antonym
scared	afraid, frightened	antonym
colleagues	friends	synonym
flambé	a cooking procedure in which alcohol is added to a hot pan to create a burst of flames	definition
hefty serving	large amount	example