TABE
ELA-E
PAXEN

Unit-4
Vocabulary and Word Use

Lesson-22
Context Clues

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ELA-E-22 Context Clues

Lesson 22 | **Context Clues**

2.L.4.a — High

Sometimes the **context**, or surrounding text, helps you figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word. The other words in a sentence and surrounding sentences become keys to unlocking the meaning of unfamiliar words. Here are a few types of context clues.

Same Meaning Words that have a similar meaning are used in surrounding sentences.

Opposite Meaning Words that have an opposite meaning are used in surrounding sentences.

Definition The word is defined in the sentence or surrounding sentences.

Example Specific examples give clues to the meaning of the word.

Examples

The <u>route</u> we chose was windy and hilly. Along the road, we saw deer and elk.
(The word *road* gives clue about the meaning of the word *route*.)

Partygoers wore a wide range of <u>costumes</u> from fairy princesses to sailor suits to alien monsters.
(Fairy princesses, sailor suits, and alien monsters all are examples of costumes.)

Context clues are especially important when deciding meanings for words that have multiple meanings. The following sentences use the same word: *stamps*. However, the meaning of *stamps* is different. It is only by reading the sentences that you can decide whether the meaning is "stickers used on an envelope to mail it" or "brings one's feet down heavily on the ground."

Examples   I bought <u>stamps</u> at the post office and mailed my letter.

The toddler <u>stamps</u> his feet during a tantrum because he is angry.

Test Example

1. Read the sentence.

   I was in a _____ mood after I heard the bad news.

   Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

   A. joyful

   B. terrible

   C. peaceful

   D. excited

B. Hearing bad news can put someone in a bad mood. The word *terrible* describes that kind of mood.

Strategy

When figuring out a word missing from a sentence, think about the rest of the sentence. *What do you think is happening? How might someone feel about it?* Asking questions can help you understand the context.

2

ELA-E-22 Context Clues

Read the passage. Use it to answer questions 1 through 7.

Maya and Rico carpool to work. They alternate, or change, vehicles each month. This month, they will use Maya's car. Next month, they will use Rico's car. They split the cost of gas and parking. Sharing the cost makes driving to work cheaper.

It makes sense for Rico and Maya to carpool because they travel the same _____. To avoid _____, the person who drives decides what music to listen to on the stereo. Maya and Rico trust each other to be on _____, or they will make each other late.

1 Read the sentence.

Maya and Rico <u>carpool</u> to work.

What is the meaning of *carpool* as it is used in the sentence?

A. to travel with others in one car

B. to follow behind another car

C. to borrow a car from someone

D. to choose a car from a large group of cars

2 Read the sentence.

They <u>alternate</u>, or change, vehicles each month.

Which word from the passage means the same as *alternate*?

A. carpool   B. work

C. change   D. month

3 Read the sentence.

They alternate, or change, <u>vehicles</u> each month.

Which word from the passage provides a context clue for *vehicle*?

A. change   B. month

C. use   D. car

4 Read the sentence.

They <u>split</u> the cost of gas and parking.

What is the meaning of *split* as it used in the sentence?

A. to tear in half

B. to divide between people

C. to leave

D. to end a connection

5 Read the sentence.

It makes sense for Rico and Maya to carpool because they travel the same _____.

Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

A. company   B. location

C. direction   D. vehicle

6 Read the sentence.

To avoid _____, the person who drives decides what music to listen to on the stereo.

Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

A. agreements   B. conflicts

C. traffic   D. expenses

7 Read the sentence.

Maya and Rico trust each other to be on _____, or they will make each other late.

Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

A. set   B. look

C. time   D. place

ELA-E-22 Context Clues

Practice 22   Context Clues

2.L.4.a – High

Read the passage. Use it to answer questions 1 through 5.

Carla owns a small landscape business. She mows lawns, weeds, plants flowers, and prunes overgrown trees. The work _____ as the seasons change. In the fall, Carla rakes leaves and adds mulch, or a protective covering to control weeds, to garden beds. Her happy customers write favorable reviews on her website.

1   Read the sentence.

Carla owns a small <u>landscape</u> business.

What is the meaning of *landscape* as it is used in the sentence?

A. painting of beautiful scenery

B. view of a region

C. outdoor work and garden design

D. a rectangular image with a longer horizontal side than a vertical side

2   Read the sentence.

She mows lawns, weeds, plants flowers, and <u>prunes</u> overgrown trees.

What is the meaning of *prunes* as it is used in the sentence?

A. dried plums

B. cuts back

C. completely damages

D. ignores

3   Read the sentence.

The work _____ as the seasons change.

Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

A. varies   B. halts

C. departs   D. relies

4   Read the sentences.

In the fall, Carla rakes leaves and adds <u>mulch</u>, or a protective covering to control weeds, to garden beds.

Based on the context, which material would <u>most likely</u> be considered mulch?

A. water   B. flowers

C. pine needles   D. seeds

5   Read the sentence.

Her happy customers write <u>favorable</u> reviews on her website.

Which word from the passage provides a context clue for *favorable*?

A. happy   B. customers

C. reviews   D. website

Read the passage. Use it to answer questions 6 through 10.

Izad wants to find a new job. He makes an appointment to talk with a counselor at the career center. At the meeting, the counselor asks Izad about his previous experience. Izad lists his past jobs. They also discuss his _____, talents, and interests. Finally, the counselor helps Izad write a cover letter. This is a document in which he introduces himself to potential, or possible, employers.

6   Read the sentence.

He makes an appointment to talk with a counselor at the <u>career</u> center.

Which word from the passage means the same as *career*?

A. job   B. appointment

C. counselor   D. center

ELA-E-22 Context Clues

7 Read the sentence.

At the meeting, the counselor asks Izad about his <u>previous</u> experience.

Which word from the passage provides a context clue for *previous*?

A. meeting   B. lists

C. jobs   D. past

8 Read the sentence.

They also discuss his _____, talents, and interests.

Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

A. clothes   B. family

C. skills   D. laughter

9 Read the sentence.

Finally, the counselor helps Izad write a <u>cover letter</u>.

Based on the context, to whom would a cover letter <u>most likely</u> be sent?

A. to past employers

B. to employers with a job opening

C. to career counselors

D. to past coworkers

10 Read the sentence.

This is a document in which he introduces himself to <u>potential</u>, or possible, employers.

Which word in the passage means the same as *potential*?

A. document   B. introduces

C. possible   D. employers

Read the passage. Use it to answer questions 11 through 15.

Marcel works a morning shift at a large bookstore. He works from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day. He reports to the manager daily to see what his tasks are. Some days, Marcel needs to stock the shelves to make sure they are full of books. On other days, he works at the register. Either way, he needs to _____ with his colleagues, or coworkers, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

11 Read the sentence.

Marcel works a morning <u>shift</u> at a large bookstore.

What is the meaning of *shift* as it is used in the sentence?

A. change   B. swing

C. work period   D. remove

12 Read the sentence.

He <u>reports</u> to the manager daily to see what his tasks are.

What is the meaning of *reports* as it is used in the sentence?

A. checks in with

B. makes comments about

C. describes in detail

D. writes a summary

13 Read the sentence.

Some days, Marcel needs to <u>stock</u> the shelves to make sure they are full of books.

Which word from the passage provides a context clue for *stock*?

A. Some   B. days

C. sure   D. full

14 Read the sentence.

Either way, he needs to _____ with his colleagues, or coworkers, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Which word <u>best</u> fits the context and completes the sentence?

A. provoke   B. belittle

C. collaborate   D. dance

15 Read the sentence.

Either way, he needs to _____ with his <u>colleagues</u>, or coworkers, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Which word from the passage provides a context clue for *colleagues*?

A. coworkers   B. sure

C. runs   D. smoothly

ELA-E-22 Context Clues

(2.L.4.a)

1. A. From the passage, you can tell that Maya and Rico are traveling together in one car.

2. C. The sentence indicates that *alternate* means "change."

3. D. The following sentences make it clear that *vehicle* refers to *car.*

4. B. The following sentence indicates that they "share the cost."

5. C. People who are traveling in the same direction can travel together.

6. B. Setting a pattern for decision making would help avoid conflicts, or disagreements.

7. C. Being on time prevents the two from being late.

ELA-E-22 Context Clues

1. **C.** The activities Carla does—*mows lawns, weeds, plants flowers, prunes overgrown trees*—indicate that *landscaping* means "outdoor work and garden design."

2. **B.** The phrase *overgrown trees* provides a context clue. *Prunes* means "cuts back."

3. **A.** *Varies* means "changes." The work changes according to the seasons.

4. **C.** The sentence indicates that *mulch* is a type of protective covering that controls weeds. Pine needles could be used as mulch.

5. **A.** The word *happy* shows how the customers feel when they write their reviews.

6. **A.** When Izad needs help finding a job, he visits a career center. This context clue indicates that *career* means the same as *job*.

7. **D.** The next sentence indicates that Izad lists his past jobs. *Previous* experience refers to what he did in the past.

8. **C.** *Skills* is the best match for the next words in the sentence: *talents* and *interests*.

9. **B.** The next sentence indicates that a cover letter is sent to potential employers, or employers with a job opening.

10. **C.** The sentence indicates that *potential* means "possible."

11. **C.** The phrase *from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.* indicates that *shift* means "work period."

12. **A.** The phrase to *see what his tasks are* provides a context clue. *Reports* means "checks in with" in this context.

13. **D.** For the shelves to be full, Marcel needs to stock them.

14. **C.** Marcel needs to collaborate so that everyone cooperates and shares the work.

15. **A.** The sentence indicates that *colleagues* means "coworkers."