



# Different Kinds of Context Clues

## Definition Clue

(Other words that define the unknown word, often after a comma) Look for words and phrases such as *is identified as*, *is called*, *is*, *is known as*, *that is*, *refers to*, *means*, and *the term*.

## Synonym Clue

(Words that mean basically the same thing as the unknown word) Look for words and phrases such as *in other words*, *or*, *that is to say*, *also known as*, and *by this we mean that*.

## Contrast Clue

(Words that mean the opposite of the word you are trying to define) Look for words and phrases such as *instead of*, *but*, *in contrast*, *on the other hand*, *however*, *unlike*, *although*, and *even though*.

## Example Clue

(Words that provide an example of your unknown word) Look for an example somewhere near the word.

## Experience Clue

Look for situations that you have information on already.

## Clue from Another Sentence (or Paragraph)

Sometimes there are clues from other areas of the passage that will point to the meaning of the word you are trying to figure out.