There are many types of context clues to look for when you do not know a word's meaning.

- A <u>definition</u> is the most direct kind of context clue. It sometimes appears right after an unknown word, telling you what the word means.

- You can sometimes find an <u>explanation</u> near the unknown word.

- There may be one or more words that serve as <u>examples</u> of the unfamiliar word.

- You may find a <u>synonym</u>, or a word with nearly the same meaning, in the same sentence as the unknown word.

- You may also find a clue in an <u>antonym</u>, a word that is opposite in meaning to the unfamiliar word. An antonym is a contrast to the meaning of the unknown word.

- A <u>restatement</u>, which is a different way of expressing a word's meaning, is similar to a synonym.

Often, though, context clues are not all in one place, so you may have to make an inference about a word's meaning based on more than just a word or two. You may have to consider the whole sentence or even an entire paragraph in order to add up all the clues to meaning.

Type of Context Clue	How It Works	Example
Definition	defines the word directly in the text	If you are *successful*, you <u>achieve your goal</u>.
Explanation	explains the word directly in the text	When you are *successful*, or <u>have done something well</u>, you feel good.
Example	a particular instance or case	I felt *successful* after <u>getting a high grade on the test</u>.
Synonym	a word or phrase that means almost the same thing	The *successful* student was <u>doing well</u>.
Antonym	a word or phrase that means almost the opposite	The *successful* student was still afraid of <u>failing</u>.
Restatement	a different way of expressing a word's meaning	Original statement: I was *successful* with my homework deadline. Restatement: I finished my homework on time.
Inference	uses text and background knowledge to infer meaning	The student celebrated after a *successful* school year.