

Contextual Vocabulary Strategies

Type of Context Clue	How It Gives a Clue	Signal Words
Formal Definition	The clue actually gives the meaning almost like a dictionary definition.	<i>This means, is called, is, are, was, were</i>
Restatement	The clue says the same thing again with a different word or phrase or a synonym. It can also be an apposition with the synonym set off by one or two commas.	<i>,or,</i>
Description	The clue describes or tells the characteristics related to the word.	<i>is, 'adjectives'</i>
Example	The clue illustrates or gives an example of how the word functions.	<i>such as, 'verbs', a(an) example of</i>
Antonym	The clue explains the meaning of the word by saying the opposite. It contrasts the meaning of an unfamiliar word with the meaning of a more familiar but opposite term.	<i>but, yet, however, rather, instead, although</i>