

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORD DETECTIVE: ON THE CASE

Read the example sentences below and hunt for clues: synonyms, antonyms, explanations and examples. Look closely at the **bold word**. Then take your best guess at what the word means, and write a short definition in the blank.

1. Elijah was really happy when he found out that he got an A on his exam. He felt **elated**!

2. Ian was so **irate** that he wanted to throw something, but he took a deep breath and then he felt better.

3. I didn't think his outfit was plain at all! I actually thought it was quite **ornate**.

4. My pet guinea pig is an **herbivore**, so I only feed him plants, never meat.

5. Maria was being so **antagonistic** yesterday. I think she was trying to pick a fight!

6. When Lana put on her queen costume — a long robe, a fancy necklace and a big crown — she looked **regal**.

7. "No," Mark said, "I don't think these flowers are dying. In fact, they're totally **thriving**!"

8. Erica was feeling really **lethargic** on Sunday. She didn't have any energy left after the amusement park trip.

9. Elephants and hippos have a **pewter** color to their skin.

10. My dad always tells me to stop **dawdling** and hurry up, or we'll be late!

Name _____

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Context Clues

Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. What do you call a word that has the opposite meaning of another word?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| A. a homonym | C. an antonym |
| B. a synonym | D. an explanation |

2. When you are reading and come to an unknown word, what should you do first?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. Look for clues in the text. | C. Look it up in a dictionary. |
| B. Skip it and keep reading. | D. Ask the teacher what it means. |

3. Based on context clues in the passage below, **ecstatic** means _____.

*They were **ecstatic** at the birth of their baby. They couldn't stop smiling for days.*

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| A. nervous | C. discouraged |
| B. watchful | D. excited |

4. Based on the context clues in the passage below, **eliminate** means _____.

*Please **eliminate** the blank lines between the pictures. They were not supposed to be there.*

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| A. delete | C. color |
| B. find | D. add |

5. Based on context clues in the passage below, **migrate** means _____.

*Many Northern birds **migrate** for the winter. They return in the spring.*

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. sing | C. eat |
| B. move away | D. lay eggs |

6. Read the passage below. Which word or words best helps you understand the meaning of the word **obedient**?

The obedient child always followed her mother's requests. That night, she brushed her teeth, folded her clothes, and went to bed before her mother had to come in and remind her.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. brushed her teeth | C. that night |
| B. followed her mother's requests | D. folded her clothes |

7. Read the passage below. Which word or words help you understand the meaning of the word **transportation** in this sentence?

On Thursday afternoon, what kind of transportation will you use, a car or train?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| A. car or train | C. use |
| B. kind | D. Thursday afternoon |

8. Based on context clues in the passage below, **truncated** means _____.

*I was upset that the ebook file was **truncated** because I couldn't find out how the story ended.*

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|--------------|----------------|
| A. cut short | C. overly long |
| B. finished | D. boring |

9. Based on context clues in the passage below, **trifle** means _____.

*Her cat was dying, and she was worried about a **trifle** like her torn dress!*

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| A. a gun | C. a big deal |
| B. everything | D. a little thing |

10. Read the passage below. What kind of context clue helps you understand the meaning of the word **discontent**?

*Just yesterday the sailors had been happy. Now a wave of **discontent** swept through the ship's crew.*

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| A. explanation | C. antonym |
| B. example | D. synonym |

Context Clues

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Context clues are hints in a sentence or passage. These hints can help you figure out the meaning of a word you don't know. You may find the clue in the same sentence as the word you don't know or in a nearby sentence. Looking for context clues is a useful strategy. It helps you understand what you are reading. This strategy allows you to easily learn new vocabulary.

Read the following passage.

When I observe my sister, I can't help but notice how savvy she is. Shrewd and clever, she always makes good decisions. I find her inspirational and when I am around her, I strive to be as knowing as she is.

Which phrase from the passage provides context clues for the meaning of the word "savvy"?

- A. "When I observe my sister"
 - B. "I find her"
 - C. "Shrewd and clever"
 - D. "as she is."
2. Sometimes, a difficult word or phrase is explained in simpler language. Look for a synonym: a word or phrase that has the same meaning as the unknown word.

Read the following passage.

The mayor's speech was bombastic. It was full of big words but had very little meaning. The town's citizens left the meeting more confused than ever.

Which word or phrase from the passage helps you figure out the meaning of the word "bombastic"?

- A. "The mayor's"
- B. "more confused than ever"
- C. "full of big words but had very little meaning."
- D. "citizens"

3. Sometimes, we can figure out the meaning of a word by looking for a word with the opposite meaning nearby. Look for an **antonym**: a word or phrase that has the opposite meaning as the unknown word.

What is the meaning of the word "cordial" as it is used in the sentence below?

She gave a cordial greeting—so different from the cold, unfriendly words she'd said before.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| A. friendly and warm | B. quiet and proud |
| C. angry and annoyed | D. happy and joyful |
4. Sometimes, the meaning of a word or phrase is explained immediately following its use. Look for an **explanation** for the unknown word in the sentence or in sentences nearby.

Read the following passage.

The clown was irate. He angrily smashed the birthday cake and popped the balloons before fleeing the party.

Which word or phrase from the passage helps you figure out the meaning of the word "irate"?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| A. "fleeing" | B. "The clown" |
| C. "angrily smashed" | D. "birthday cake" |