

Name: _____

Kinds of Context Clues

Context clues are hints in nearby words or sentences that help you guess the meaning of an unknown word or phrase. There are five main kinds.

definition – a clear and direct explanation of the word

The **canopy**, a forest's topmost layer, gets the most sunlight.

example – one or more examples of the word

This shop sells candies, cookies, and other **confections**.

antonym – use of a word or phrase with the *opposite* meaning

Unlike her **extroverted** brother, Lilith is very shy.

Hint: Look for words that show contrast, such as *but* and *although*.

synonym – use of a word or phrase with a *similar* meaning



Read the sentences. Identify what kind of context clue the author gave to help you figure out the meaning of the bold word. Then tell what you think the word means.

1. It took a while for Skylar and Kareem to **reconcile** after their fight. Hopefully next time they will make up more quickly.

kind of context clue – _____

reconcile – _____

2. I thought Jairo's score would be worse than mine. Instead, it was **superior!**

kind of context clue – _____

superior – _____

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Write Your Own Context Clues

3. The company is worried about the **declining** number of customers.

kind of context clue – _____

declining – _____

4. Baylee is a **pescatarian**, which means the only kind of meat she eats is fish.

kind of context clue – _____

pescatarian – _____

5. There are many kinds of **domiciles**, from apartments to houses, huts to cabins.



7. Mazie's new dog has **boundless** energy. Its love for people also has no limits, since it makes friends with everyone.

kind of context clue – _____

boundless – _____

8. For Romans with money, the **atrium**—a bright, open-aired room—was an important part of the house.

kind of context clue – _____

atrium – _____

ANSWER KEY

Answers will vary. Examples are given.

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Preview

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the printable version of this worksheet.



ANSWER KEY

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Write Your Own Context Clues

3. The company is worried about the **declining** number of customers.

kind of context clue – inference

declining – going down

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part of the house.

kind of context clue – definition

atrium – a bright, open-aired room