Vocabulary in Context

How to hunt down the meaning of a word by using the clues around it
What is Vocabulary in Context?

"Vocabulary" (words in your textbooks) + "In Context" (how those words relate to the words around them)

Our Final Calculation: Better Vocabulary Skils = Better Comprehension Which = Better Grades!
How Does Vocabulary in Context work?

Most writers leave context clues as they write. It is our job as the reader to hunt them down!

You Follow The Clues
There are **4 main types of Context Clues**

**The 4 Types**

- Rewording **the word**.
- Giving its **Synonym**.
- Giving its **Antonym**.
- Giving us **Details about the word**.
Rewording is when the author says the word in another way, that is typically easier to understand.
Context Clues: Rewording

Let’s Look at an Example:

Resentment, a feeling of bitterness and anger, is often felt by people who are passed over for promotions.

What does the word resentment mean in this sentence?
Resentment, a feeling of bitterness and anger, is often felt by people who are passed over for promotions.

If you wanted to find the meaning of the word RESENTMENT the clue is right here.
The Cruise family moved from their dilapidated house, that was old and run-down, into a brand new home.

What does the word dilapidated mean here?

HINT: In REWORDING, the context clues are often hidden between commas!
Context Clues: Synonyms

A writer sometimes uses **synonym** context clues to help with hard words. A **synonym** context clue is one or two words that mean almost the same as the one that the author does not expect us to know.
Context Clues:
Synonyms

Let’s Look at an Example:

The young girl was very aloof. She always seemed unsociable, unapproachable, and uninterested.

What does the word aloof mean in this sentence?
The three brothers began to **altercate** over the game. This was not the first time that they had a dispute over it.

What does the word **altercate** mean here?

**HINT:** SYNONYM context clues are often hidden in surrounding sentences!
A writer is using **antonym** context clues when they use a word with opposite meaning to give us hints about the word that they don’t think we will know.
Context Clues: Antonyms

Let’s Look at an Example:

Dianna appeared to be a very moral and upstanding young lady, but those who knew her knew that she was iniquitous.

What does the word *iniquitous* mean in this sentence?
There is a special word in this sentence that hints at the presence of an antonym.

Dianna appeared to be a very moral and upstanding young lady, but those who knew her knew that she was iniquitous.
Context Clues: Antonyms

Now You Give It A Try!

David was very outgoing as opposed to his coy older sister.

What does the word coy mean here?

HINT: ANTONYM context clues always have hint words to tell us that there are opposites present!
Context Clues: Details

A writer is using details as context clues when they give us explanations or examples as hints about the word that they don’t think we will know.
There are several different kinds of Context Clues that are Details.

- **Details** that are examples of the unknown word.
- **Details** that tell why the unknown word has taken place.
- **Details** that explain how the word relates to other things the author has stated.
Context Clues: Details

Let’s Look at an Example:

Father was **ecstatic** because Joshua decided to go to the college that he wanted him to.

What does the word **ecstatic** mean in this sentence?
Context Clues: Details

Now You Give It A Try!

Brian was expeditious when he left the school building. He ran through the halls, jumped in his car, and sped off.

What does the word expeditious mean here?
Mallery’s mom thought that the new outfit that she had bought for her was **modish**. Mallery did not want to break it to her, but it was totally out of style.

**Questions:**

Which type of context clue is being used here?  
What does the word **modish** mean in this sentence?
This context clue was an Antonym. Here, *modish* means the same as *stylish*.

Mallery’s mom thought that the new outfit that she had bought for her was *modish*. Mallery did not want to break it to her, but it was totally out of style.
Insomnia, not being able to sleep at night, can be linked to an excessive intake of caffeine throughout the day.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word insomnia mean in this sentence?
Context Clues:
Practice Answer #2

The context clue here was Rewording. Here, insomnia means not able to sleep at night.

Insomnia, not being able to sleep at night, can be linked to an excessive intake of caffeine throughout the day.
The woman enjoyed the *savor* of the soup. It had a hint of spices balanced with the perfect amount of sweetness.

**Questions:**

Which type of context clue is being used here?

What does the word *savor* mean in this sentence?
The woman enjoyed the savor of the soup. It had a hint of spices balanced with the perfect amount of sweetness.

This context clue was a Detail. Here, savor means the same as flavor.
The day had proven to be very torrid. Before the sun had even risen, it was already hot outside.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word torrid mean in this sentence?
The day had proven to be very torrid. Before the sun had even risen, it was already hot outside.

This context clue was a synonym. Here, torrid means the same as hot.
It is our custom that the bride and groom only wear the finest raiment on their wedding day.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word raiment mean in this sentence?
It is our custom that the bride and groom only wear the finest raiment on their wedding day.

This context clue was a Detail. Here, raiment means clothes.
Though many types of birds fly in groups, Eagles are birds of solitude.

Questions:
Which type of context clue is being used here?
What does the word solitude mean in this sentence?
Context Clues: Practice Answer #5

Though many types of birds fly in groups, Eagles are birds of solitude.

This context clue was an antonym. Here, solitude means to be alone.