

# Chapter One:

## Vocabulary in Context

Do you know the meaning of the word *ubiquitous*?

Look at the sentence below and see if the **context**—the words surrounding the unfamiliar word—helps you figure out the meaning of the word.

Cell phones have become *ubiquitous*; you can see—and hear—they everywhere.

What does *ubiquitous* mean?

**A.** unaffordable

**B.** complicated

**C.** widespread

# VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

If the phones are “everywhere,” they must be *widespread*.

The **context** helps you figure out that *ubiquitous* means “widespread.”

Cell phones have become *ubiquitous*; you can see—and hear—they *everywhere*.

What does *ubiquitous* mean?

**A.** unaffordable

**B.** complicated

**C.** widespread

# VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Using context clues will help you by

- **saving you time** when reading
- **adding to your vocabulary**

# VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

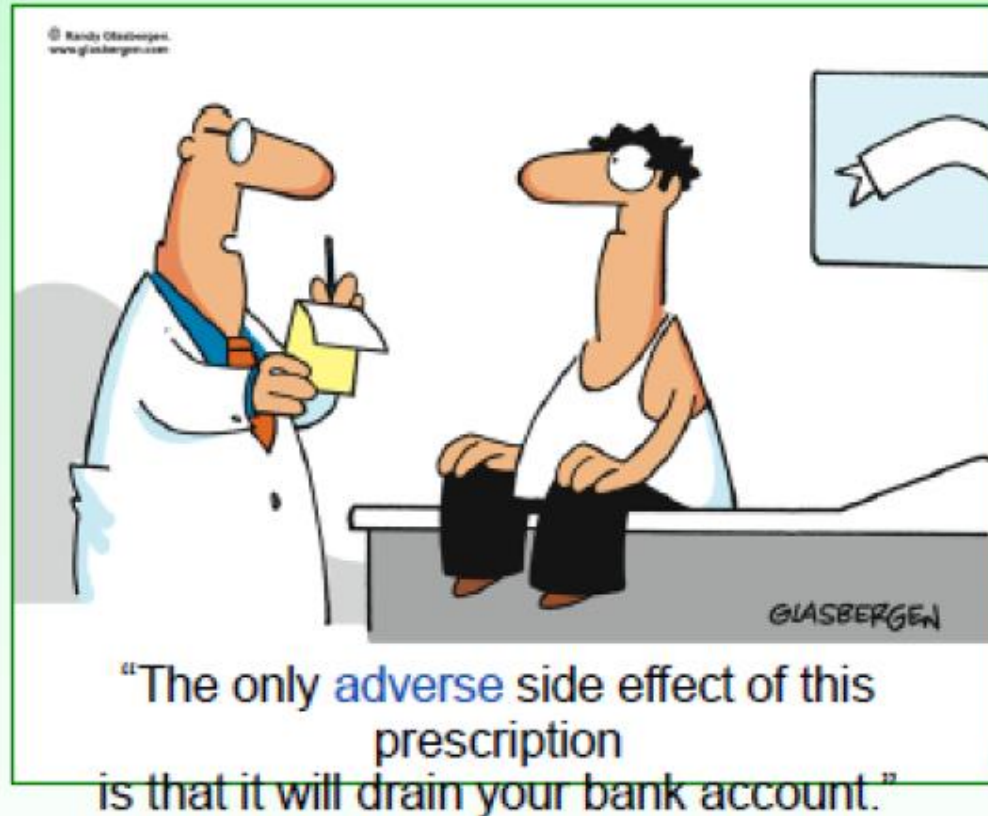
There are four common types of context clues:

- 1** Examples
- 2** Synonyms
- 3** Antonyms
- 4** General Sense of the Sentence or Passage

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Examples

Look at the cartoon below. What do you think the word *adverse* means?



*Adverse* means

- A.** known.
- B.** pleasant.
- C.** harmful.



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Examples

Look at the sentences below and see if the examples help you understand the meaning of the word *tribulations*.

As they moved westward, early pioneers faced many *tribulations*, such as scarce food, extreme weather, and loneliness.

*Tribulations* means

- A.** criminals.                      **B.** hard decisions.                      **C.** great difficulties.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Examples

Look at the sentences below and see if the examples help you understand the meaning of the word *idiosyncrasy*.

Each of my coworkers has a strange *idiosyncrasy*. For instance, our receptionist wears only pink. The mail clerk always speaks in a whisper. And my office mate lives on peanuts and apples.

*Idiosyncrasy* means

**A.** hidden thought.     **B.** unusual goal.     **C.** unusual personal trait.



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Examples

Examples are often introduced with **signal words and phrases** like *for example, for instance, including, and such as*.

### *Examples*

As they moved westward, early pioneers faced many *tribulations*, **such as** scarce food, extreme weather, and loneliness.

Each of my coworkers has a strange *idiosyncrasy*. **For instance**, our receptionist wears only pink. The mail clerk always speaks in a whisper. And my office mate lives on peanuts and apples.



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

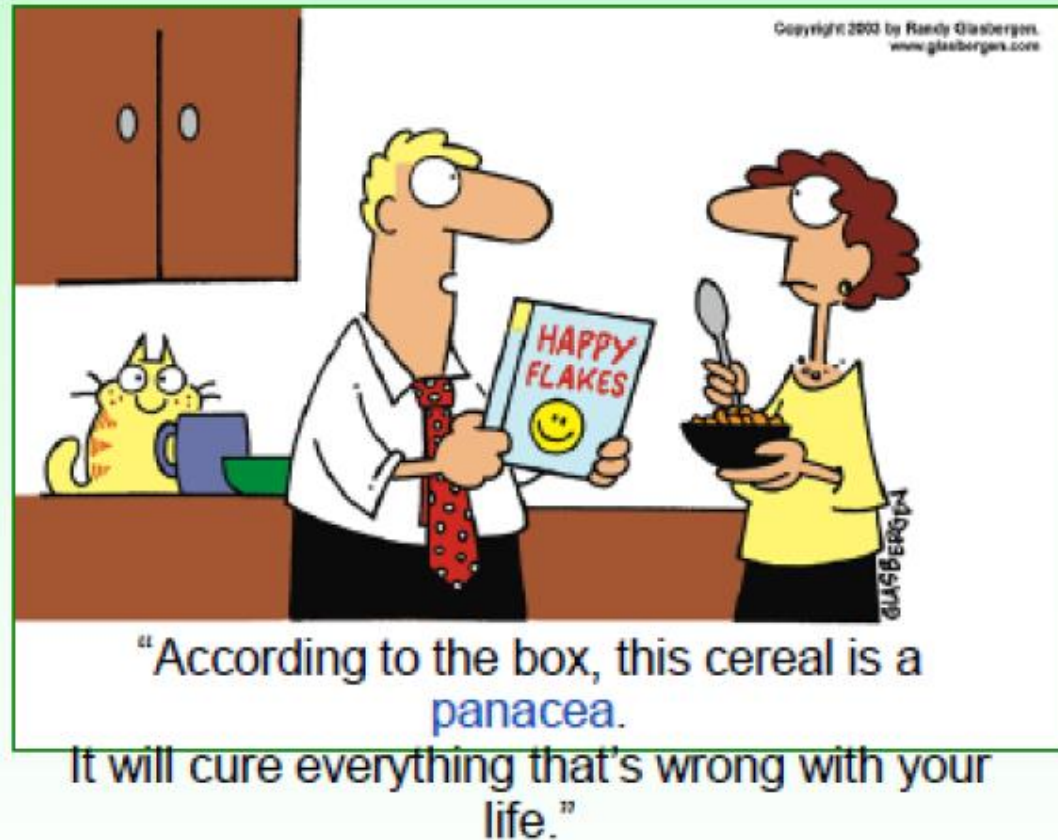
## Synonyms

Context clues are often found in the form of **synonyms**: one or more words that mean **the same** or **almost the same** as the unknown word.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Synonyms

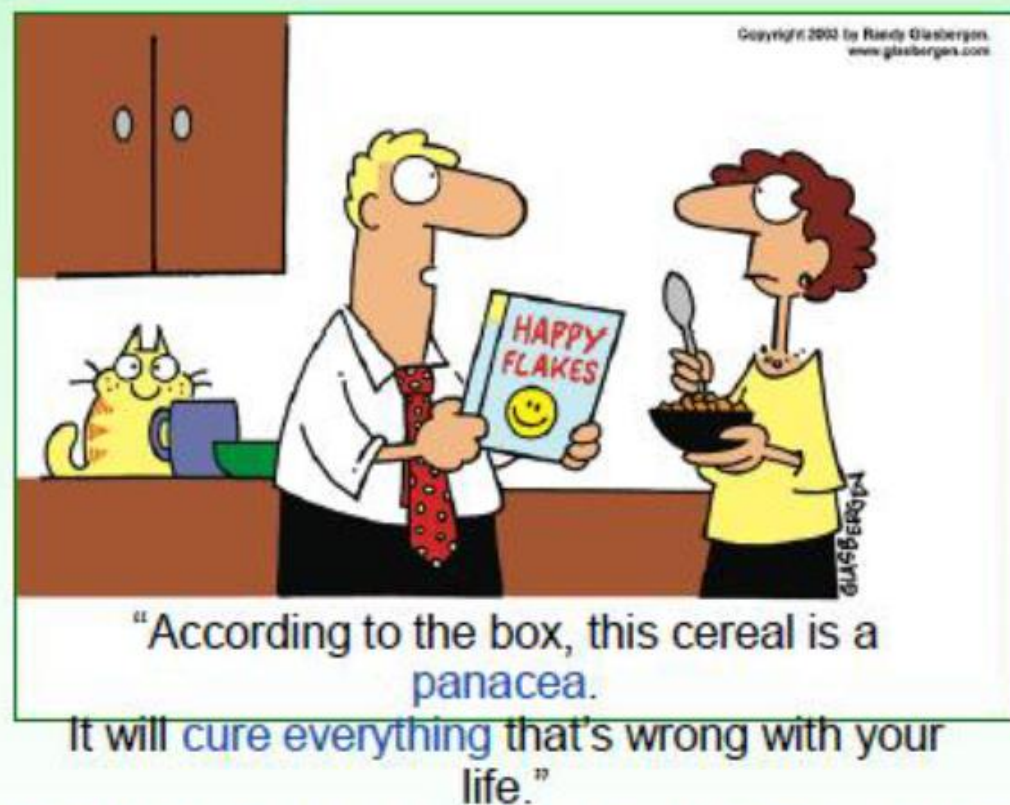
Look at the cartoon below. What words help you understand what *panacea* means?



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Synonyms

Look at the cartoon below. What words help you understand what *panacea* means?



The **synonym** that helps you understand the word *panacea* is "cure everything."

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Synonyms

In the sentences below, what is the **synonym** that tells you the meaning of the word *innate*?

That five-year-old girl must have *innate* musical talent; playing the piano so well at her age requires an inborn gift.



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Synonyms

In the sentences below, what is the **synonym** that tells you the meaning of the word *mentor*?

Gaining a *mentor* is helpful when you are beginning a new job. A wise and trusted advisor can greatly assist your career.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Antonyms

**Antonyms** are words or phrases that mean the **opposite** of a word.

Antonyms are also useful as context clues.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Antonyms

Look at the cartoon below. What words help you understand what *indolent* means?



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Antonyms

Look at the cartoon below. What words help you understand what *indolent* means?



The **antonym** *hard work* helps you figure out that the word *indolent* means "lazy."



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Antonyms

In the sentence below,

1. What is the **antonym** that helps you figure out the meaning of the word *verbose*?
2. What is the meaning of *verbose*?

A memo that is brief and to the point is more likely to be read than one that is *verbose* and rambling.

*Verbose* means

- A.** argumentative.      **B.** wordy.      **C.** short.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Antonyms

In the sentence below,

1. What is the **antonym** that helps you figure out the meaning of the word *bizarre*?
2. What is the meaning of *bizarre*?

Most of my friends' mothers seemed ordinary; mine, however, did such *bizarre* things as spraying green paint on a dead tree in front of our house.

*Bizarre* means

**A.** odd.

**B.** easy.

**C.** dangerous.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## Antonyms

Antonyms are sometimes signaled by words such as *however, but, yet, on the other hand,* and *in contrast*.

### *Example*

Most of my friends' mothers seemed ordinary; mine, **however**, did such *bizarre* things as spraying green paint on a dead tree in front of our house.



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## General Sense of the Sentence or Passage

- Sometimes, to figure out an unfamiliar word, you must **draw conclusions** based on the information given.
- **Asking yourself questions** can help you make an accurate guess about the meaning of the unfamiliar word.



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## General Sense of the Sentence or Passage

Look at the cartoon below. To understand the meaning of *opportune*, ask yourself: Is this a good time for the boss to tell the injured worker that he's been fired?



# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## General Sense of the Sentence or Passage

Read the sentence below. Then think about the question that follows to figure out the meaning of *rectified*.

One argument against capital punishment is that if an innocent person is executed, the mistake cannot be *rectified*.

(What cannot be done about a mistake as final as an execution?)

*Rectified* means

**A.** remembered.

**B.** predicted.

**C.** corrected.

# TYPES OF CONTEXT CLUES

## General Sense of the Sentence or Passage

Read the sentence below. Then think about the question that follows to figure out the meaning of *extricate*.

It took two days for volunteers to *extricate* the little girl from the bottom of the well.

(How would volunteers try to help the trapped girl?)

*Extricate* means

**A.** free.

**B.** delay.

**C.** remember.



# TEXTBOOK DEFINITIONS

- Textbook authors often provide definitions of important terms, followed by examples.
- They usually set off the terms they are defining in *italic* or **boldface** type.

## *Example*

In all societies there is some **vertical mobility**—moving up or down the status ladder. The upward movement is called *upward mobility* and the downward movement, *downward mobility*. The promotion of a teacher to the position of principal is an example of upward mobility, and demotion from principal to teacher is downward mobility.



## CHAPTER REVIEW

In this chapter, you learned the following:

- To save time when reading, you should try to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words. You can do so by looking at their *context*—the words surrounding them.
- There are four kinds of context clues: **examples** (marked by words like *for example*, *for instance*, *including*, and *such as*); **synonyms** (words that mean the same as unknown words); **antonyms** (words that mean the opposite of unknown words); and **general sense of the sentence** (clues in the sentence or surrounding sentences about what words might mean).
- Textbook authors typically set off important words in *italic* or **boldface** and define those words for you, often providing examples as well.