| **CONTEXTUAL MEANING** |
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**Context Clue**

Context clues are hints found within a sentence, paragraph, or passage that a reader can use to understand the meanings of new or unfamiliar words.

Learning the meaning of a word through its use in a sentence or paragraph is the most practical way to build vocabulary since a dictionary is not always available when a reader encounters an unknown word.

A reader must be aware that many words have several possible meanings. Only by being sensitive to the circumstances in which a word is used can the reader decide upon an appropriate definition to fit the context.

A reader should **rely on context clues** when an obvious clue to meaning is provided, or when

only a general sense of the meaning is needed for the reader’s purposes. Context clues should not be relied upon when a precise meaning is required when clues suggest several possible definitions, when nearby words are unfamiliar, and when the unknown word is a common one that will be needed again; in these cases, a dictionary should be consulted.

There are several different types of context clues. Some of them are:

1. **DEFINITION / DESCRIPTION CLUE**

The new term may be formally defined, or sufficient explanation may be given within the

sentence or in the following sentence. Clues to definition include “that is,” commas, dashes,

and parentheses.

**Example:**

Metacognition, or *awareness of one's learning and cognitive abilities*, has been linked to academic achievement.

This Saturday, let’s visit the arboretum, *a garden that is entirely dedicated to the exhibition of plants and trees.*

1. **EXAMPLE CLUES**

Sometimes when a reader finds a new word, an example might be found nearby that helps to

explain its meaning. Words like including, such as, and for example, point out example clues.

**Example:**

Piscatorial creatures, such as *salmon, trout, and flounder* live in the deepest parts of the ocean.

Celestial bodies, including *the moon, the sun and stars,* have been an object of fascination for men for centuries.

1. **SYNONYM RESTATEMENT CLUE**

The reader may discover the meaning of an unknown word because it repeats an idea

expressed in familiar words nearby. Synonyms are words with the same meaning.

**Example:**

Her story was fabricated. Every word of it was completely *made up*.

They found the request from their teacher preposterous and complained to their principal about the *unreasonable* demand.

1. **CONTRAST / ANTONYM CLUE**

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. An opposite-meaning context clue contrasts

the meaning of an unfamiliar word with the meaning of a familiar term. Words like

“although,” “however,” and “but” may signal contrast clues.

**Example:**

He was opposed to the idea, *although* his best friend was completely *supportive* of it.

She acted nonchalant about the exam, *but* she was actually quite *concerned.*

1. **ANALYSIS OR STRUCTURE CLUE**

The parts used to construct a word can be direct clues to meaning. Knowledge of

prefixes, roots, and suffixes can aid a reader in using this type of context clue. Learning

a one-word part can add dozens of words to a reader’s vocabulary. The power of word parts

lies in the ability to combine the roots and affixes with the context in which a word is

used to discover the author’s meaning.

**Example:**

I am an aspirant for this award.

She knew the consequences would be unpleasant if she behaved maniacally.

1. **CAUSE AND EFFECT CLUE**

The author explains the reason for or the result of the word. Words like “because,”

“since,” “therefore,” “thus,” “so,” etc. may signal context clues.

**Example:**

After the concert, I felt so elated.

She wanted t*o impress all her dinner guests with the food she served, so* she carefully

studied the necessary culinary arts.

**Source:** Miami Dade College <https://www.mdc.edu/kendall/collegeprep/documents2/context%20cluesrev8192.pdf>

**Prefixes and Suffixes**

The English language contains an enormous and ever-growing number of words. Enhancing your vocabulary by learning new words can seem overwhelming, but if you know the common prefixes and suffixes of English, you will understand many more words.

Mastering common prefixes and suffixes is like learning a code. Once you crack the code, you can not only spell words more correctly but also recognize and perhaps even define unfamiliar words.

**Prefixes**

A prefix is a word part added to the beginning of a word to create a new meaning. Study the common prefixes in the following table.

| **Prefix** | **Meaning** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| dis | not, opposite of | dis + satisfied = dissatisfied |
| mis | wrongly | mis + spell = misspell |
| un | not | un + acceptable = unacceptable |
| re | again | re + election = reelection |
| inter | between | inter + related = interrelated |
| pre | before | pre + pay = prepay |
| non | not | non + sense = nonsense |
| super | above | super + script = superscript |
| sub | under | sub + merge = submerge |
| anti | against, opposing | anti + bacterial = antibacterial |

**Suffixes**

A suffix is a word part added to the end of a word to create a new meaning. Study the suffix rules in the following boxes.

Rule 1: -ness and -ly

When adding the suffixes –*ness* and –*ly* to a word, the spelling of the word does not change.

Examples:

* dark + ness = darkness
* scholar + ly = scholarly

Exceptions to Rule 1

When the word ends in *y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding –*ness* and –*ly*.

Examples:

* ready + ly = readily
* happy + ness = happiness

Rule 2: Suffix Begins with a Vowel

When the suffix begins with a vowel, drop the silent *e* in the root word.

Examples:

* care + ing = caring
* use + able = usable

Exceptions to Rule 2

When the word ends in *ce* or *ge*, keep the silent *e* if the suffix begins with *a* or *o*.

Examples:

* replace + able = replaceable
* courage + ous = courageous

Rule 3: Suffix Begins with a Consonant

When the suffix begins with a consonant, keep the silent *e* in the original word.

Examples:

* care + ful = careful
* care + less = careless

**Exercise on Context Clue (Prefix & Suffix)**

**Add the correct prefix to the word to complete each sentence.**

1. I wanted to ease my stomach \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_comfort, so I drank some ginger root tea.

2. Melinda felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_glamorous at the party because she was the only one not wearing a dress.

3. With a small class size, the students get to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_act with the teacher more frequently.

4. I slipped on the ice because I did not heed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_cautions about watching my step.

5. Even though she got an excellent job offer, Cherie wanted to avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_locating to a different country.

6. She gave a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understood explanation of the topic, making it even harder to understand.

7. The company is trying to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ veil the new software by the end of the month.

8. The hero's powers were so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ human that no one could defeat him.

9. They decided to go \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ terranean the mountain to explore the caves.

10. He took a stand against the corrupt policies, becoming a leading voice in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ corruption movement.

**Suffix**

**Complete the sentences below. Use the suffix with the words in the box.**

**Use appropriate suffixes with the words in the box.**

| approve, color, finish, wash, profit, drink, envy, scholar, danger, understand, clean, accept, knowledge, loud, hope, employ |
| --- |

1. Do not worry Rifat, the water of this river is very clean. In fact, it’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. The mountaineer is an adventurous person, he deals with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ situations in a calm manner.

3. After the group completed the submission of the project, they had to wait for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Mr. Richard knows lots of things. He is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person.

5. Ms. Saima is an esteemed scholar. She devotes most of her time to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ research.

6. The constant loud \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the noise made it difficult to concentrate.

1. After finish\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his homework, he went out to play.
2. The house was beautifully decorated with color\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flowers for the event.
3. The kitten was so hope\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that it kept getting stuck in small spaces.

10. His envy\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_attitude made him unpopular with his colleagues.

**Practice Text 1: Contextual Meaning**

**The Reading Habits of High-Achievers**

**Jim Kwik**

There is no definite definition or recipe for success but regardless of one’s journey, one commonality of success among the high achievers is their habit of reading. A scholar in the field of reading once said, “the **essence** of making people sensible is reading.” Reading is considered one of the best habits one can **implant** to gain the overall fitness of one's brain. Unlike most skills that are hard-wired into our brains as part of our evolutionary drive, reading, and writing are things we develop over time. They **emanate** from our desire to communicate through pictures and the storytelling tradition, as the language and visual centers of the brain work in tandem to bring the oral and then written words to life. Without the desire to communicate, one may feel discouraged to read and write. Hence, reading has been shown to increase the amount of nerve fiber in the brain and create new neural connections, significantly promoting skill development, improving concentration, and enhancing vocabulary.

To begin with, reading holds greater significance as it isa **prerequisite** to the skill development required for being successful in life. For instance, highly successful people like Warren Buffet, Elon Musk, Oprah Winfrey, and Bill Gates make time to read regularly. To illustrate more, regular reading exposes us to various concepts, viewpoints, and subject areas, which promotes critical thinking, and broadens imagination leading to intellectual growth. From a neuroscientific research perspective, reading habits activate the brain, boosting neural connection and the development of white matter—a network of myelinated nerve fibers that connects various brain regions for effective communication. Such enhancement boosts our cognitive functions i.e., language comprehension, visualization, and critical thinking. Besides, readers get to explore multiple perspectives on specific topics which contribute to their emotional intelligence making them empathetic and socially mindful. It provides life lessons and encourages skills necessary for career growth and lifelong learning. Reading about technologies or company strategies, for instance, can stimulate entrepreneurial problem-solving and thinking, assisting in navigating difficult situations and coming to well-informed conclusions. Thus, reading gives us life lessons while encouraging us to practice skills necessary for career growth and lifelong learning while practicing in our daily lives.

Moreover**,** reading significantly improves readers’ concentration through improved neural connections and an increased number of nerve fibers in the brain. Reading comprehensive content like fiction, research articles, or in-depth reports requires persistent cognitive effort activating several brain regions, particularly those related to enhancing our concentration. For example, reading a multifaceted mystery novel demands continuous focus since it needs us to retain facts, follow complex plots, and maintain track of several characters. To elaborate more, fictional reading engages the brain in visualization and pattern recognition whereas nonfiction allows readers to absorb specific information to develop different skills. However, both readings demand continuous focus for retaining information, extending our mental exercise that promotes the development of white matter, or nerve fibers, allowing quicker and more effective brain-to-brain communication. Akin to any exercise, prolonged reading reduces the risk of Neurocognitive disorders, a state where mental flexibility and attention span are compromised resulting in dementia and Alzheimer's and slowing down the aging process of the brain.

Additionally, reading drastically broadens our vocabulary by exposing us to a vast array of words and phrases. Habitual reading of various **genres**, such as science journals, classic literature, or historical fiction, for instance, may guide us to terms and idioms specific to each area. Grasping these uses of contextual meaning helps us express ourselves more clearly and communicate more effectively. Our ability to process language improves by forming new neural connections in the brain with each new word we learn that context helps us grasp and remember more successfully. This vocabulary **enrichment** enhances our writing and speaking abilities and fosters both professional and personal growth which is not merely passive recognition. Consequently, reading supports many facets of personal development by acting as a potent instrument for language and cognitive development.

To conclude, reading is an essential component of accomplishment, as seen by the practices of successful individuals that enhances our focus, and vocabulary in addition to skills development. As successful people like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett illustrate, reading daily exposes us to a variety of viewpoints and advanced knowledge that fosters critical thinking and intellectual development. Empathy, emotional intelligence, and social mindfulness are developed through this habit and are crucial for both professional and personal growth. Reading also improves our ability to focus, fortifies our brain networks, and guards against neurocognitive disorders—all of which contribute to long-term cognitive health. Ultimately, reading goes beyond pleasure to become a transforming force that shapes brains, widens perspectives, and helps people achieve long-term success and fulfillment. **(Adapted)**

**Identify the contextual meaning of the following words. Please mention the clue that guides you to find the meaning.**

**Essence:**

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**Emanate:**

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**Prerequisite:**

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**Genre:**

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**Enrichment:**

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**Practice Text 2: Contextual Meaning**

**Challenges of Freelancers in Bangladesh**

**Mahmud Majumdar**

Freelancing in Bangladesh has seen significant growth since the early 2000s, with around 650,000 freelancers generating approximately $100 million annually, though unofficial figures suggest up to $300 million. As more young people embrace freelancing, it becomes an increasingly attractive career option. However, despite their contributions to the national economy and their potential for individual economic empowerment, freelancers in Bangladesh face significant challenges that hinder their growth and success. This article delves into the primary obstacles faced by Bangladeshi freelancers, including issues of social acceptance, inadequate training facilities, and limited access to reliable payment gateways, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to support this vital sector.

First of all, the freelancing community in Bangladesh struggles with social acceptance and economic recognition. Despite their visible contribution to the national economy, freelancers often face **skepticism** regarding their profession's legitimacy. Government-issued identity cards have not significantly improved their status or access to financial services. Freelancers are frequently perceived as lacking stable, respectable jobs, which can lead to social stigmatization and difficulties in securing financial products such as loans and credit cards. However, recent decisions to provide cash incentives for service exports signal positive change. These initiatives could enhance freelancers’ economic viability and social standing, fostering a more supportive environment for the industry to thrive. By recognizing the economic contributions of freelancers and offering tangible benefits, the government can help shift public perception and validate freelancing as a credible career path.

Secondly, inadequate training facilities pose a significant challenge for freelancers seeking to enhance their skills and remain competitive in the global market. Many aspiring freelancers lack access to high-quality, comprehensive training programs that cover **pivotal** areas such as advanced technical skills, digital marketing, communication, and project management. This gap in training infrastructure results in a skills **deficit**, making it difficult for freelancers to meet international standards and client expectations. Furthermore, without proper guidance and mentorship, many freelancers struggle to navigate the **convolution** of the freelance marketplace, such as finding clients, negotiating contracts, and managing finances. This deficiency not only stifles individual career growth but also hinders the overall development of the freelancing industry in Bangladesh, preventing it from realizing its full potential as a significant contributor to the national economy.

Finally, freelancers in Bangladesh face challenges in getting access to reliable payment gateways. This limitation hampers their ability to receive payments efficiently from international clients, which is a critical aspect of freelancing. Many global payment platforms, such as PayPal, are either unavailable or have limited functionality in Bangladesh, creating barriers for freelancers trying to secure their earnings. This situation often forces freelancers toresort to less **reliable**, more expensive, and time-consuming methods to receive payments, such as wire transfers or third-party services. These alternative methods can lead to higher transaction fees and longer processing times, thereby reducing overall income and financial security. Besides, the lack of a **robust** or dependable payment gateway infrastructure not only affects the financial stability of freelancers but also impedes the growth of the freelancing sector in Bangladesh, limiting opportunities for economic advancement and integration into the global digital economy. To foster a more supportive environment, there is a critical need for improved payment solutions that can streamline transactions and enhance financial inclusion for freelancers.

In conclusion, while freelancing offers a promising pathway for economic growth and individual empowerment in Bangladesh, the sector is beset by several critical challenges. The lack of social acceptance and economic recognition, insufficient training facilities, and inadequate access to reliable payment gateways collectively impede the progress of freelancers in the country. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving government support, improved infrastructure, and enhanced training opportunities. By fostering a more supportive environment for freelancers, Bangladesh can unlock the full potential of its freelance workforce, driving economic advancement and ensuring that freelancers can thrive in the global digital economy. **(Adapted)**

**Identify the contextual meaning of the following words. Please mention the clue that guides you to find the meaning.**

**Skepticism:**

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**Pivotal:**

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**Deficit:**

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**Convolution:**

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**Reliable:**

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**Robust:**

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