

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/ENGLISH IB/TOPS/MACS/CLASS 4 HOMEWORK

NAME (FIRST AND LAST): _____ GRADE: _____

READING CONTEXT CLUES

Writers often give clues in the text to help you understand what you read. You just have to be a word detective and find them!

Sometimes writers need or want to use words they know will be unknown by their readers. So writers slip in other words or phrases to help readers figure out the unknown ones. Writers may define the word, give examples of similar things, or restate the idea to make it clearer. And writers may put the clues in the text itself or in nearby pictures. Readers use these context clues to make good guesses about what unknown words mean.

Definition

He played the *harpsichord*, a piano-like musical instrument.

Examples

The largest group is *arthropods*, like spiders, insects, and lobsters.

Restate to clarify

She ran to the *escarpment*. Could she climb down the steep hill in time to escape?

Sometimes an author just wants readers to understand the context of a word, not necessarily the exact meaning.

Dan was surprised that he hadn't won the election. "That's *implausible*!" he whined.

Now you may not know exactly what *implausible* means, but you can get the idea that it's not good because Dan whines, so he's not *happily* surprised! (**Implausible** means *unbelievable*.)

Look for all kinds of context clues to help you as you read.

PRACTICE

Read the selection, and then answer the questions that follow.

(1) What causes myopia? You probably know that we see because light bounces off objects and into our eyes. In a normal eye, the light rays go through the lens and focus on the retina, the sensory membrane or sheet that lines the eye, to create images. In myopic eyes, the light focuses in front of the retina instead of directly on it. So nearsighted people can usually see really well up close, but they squint to try to see things far away.

(2) Often, nearsightedness is suspected if a kid has trouble seeing the chalkboard or whiteboard in school. Then a vision test is set up to diagnose perception. In other words, a doctor checks how well the person can read various sized letters at various distances.

(3) Early diagnosis is important because nearsightedness can be ameliorated with corrective visual devices, like glasses and contact lenses. These devices can't "cure" myopia, but they help a nearsighted person see distant objects more clearly. The lens of the glasses or contacts refocuses the light before it reaches the eye so it hits the retina where it should.

(4) Doctors can also do surgery to help some people who have myopia. Adults with myopia, whose glasses or contact prescription hasn't changed for at least a year, may be able to have a laser procedure that can clear up their problem.

(5) Nearsightedness affects men and women equally. People with a family history of myopia are more likely to develop it. And there's no way to prevent it. At one time people actually believed that reading too much or watching too much TV caused nearsightedness. Those activities can make your eyes tired, but they can't cause myopia.

1. What kind of context clue does the author use for myopia?

- a. a restatement to clarify
- b. a definition
- c. a homonym
- d. examples of other eye problems

2. What is the retina?

- a. a ray of light
- b. a lens
- c. a membrane, or lining
- d. a light shaft

3. What is the meaning of diagnose?

- a. detect
- b. identify
- c. analyze
- d. all of the above

4. Which is most likely the meaning of ameliorated?

- a. worsened
- b. improved
- c. continued
- d. renewed

5. For which does the author give two or more examples as context clues?

- a. kinds of membranes in the body
- b. lenses in cameras
- c. corrective visual devices
- d. types of eye conditions

6. If you didn't know the meaning of surgery, which nearby word would be a clue?

- a. doctors
- b. myopia
- c. glasses
- d. problem

UNDERSTANDING ANTONYMS

An antonym is one of a pair of words with opposite meanings. Each word in the pair is the antithesis (or the opposite) of the other. A word may have more than one antonym.

Here are a few types of antonyms.

These antonyms lie on a continuous spectrum:

Hot and cold; heavy and light; fat and skinny; dark and light; young and old; early and late; empty and full; dull and interesting.

Why do these opposites lie on a continuous spectrum? It is a matter of perspective! For example, you may feel that your teachers are “old,” but their parents may feel that they are young.

Young ← → Old

Heavy ← → Light

Hot ← → Cold

These antonyms do not lie on a continuous spectrum. In other words, the paired words are completely opposite in meaning:

Push and pull; dead and alive; off and on; day and night; exit and entrance; exhale and inhale; occupied and vacant; identical and different.

These antonyms will only make sense in the context of the relationship between the two meanings.

Teacher and pupil; husband and wife; doctor and patient; predator and prey; teach and learn; servant and master; come and go; parent and child.

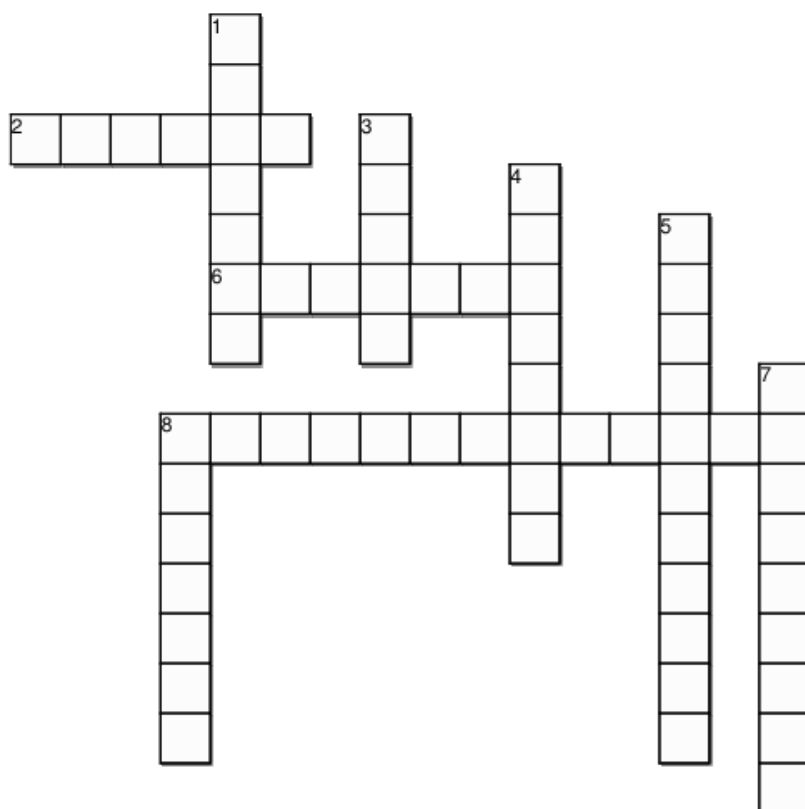
There isn't really an opposite of words like “teacher,” “husband,” and “doctor.” However, “teacher” and “student” sound like opposites if we imagine them as being related to each other in a classroom setting.

PRACTICE**Circle the word that best completes the sentence.**

- 1) The _____ exercises are not complex at all.
a. straightforward b. powerless
c. omnipotent d. common
- 2) Fruit was _____ before the blight made it scarce.
a. plentiful b. powerless
c. straightforward d. common
- 3) This _____ perfume was once quite pure.
a. straightforward b. fantastic
c. plentiful d. rancid
- 4) Our ample supplies were reduced to _____ rations.
a. plentiful b. rancid
c. straightforward d. meagre
- 5) The _____ bread grew stale within a couple of days.
a. fresh b. straightforward
c. plentiful d. common
- 6) She is not _____. In fact, she is strong and capable.
a. fresh b. straightforward
c. powerless d. common
- 7) Good puzzles are _____ rather than simple.
a. powerless b. fresh
c. plentiful d. complicated
- 8) A(n) _____ being will not be weak in any way.
a. complicated b. meagre
c. fresh d. omnipotent
- 9) Her _____ ideas were far from ordinary.
a. fantastic b. straightforward
c. meagre d. powerless

VOCABULARY BUILDING

The words in this section are taken from "The End of the Elephant Empire," Chapter 2 of a story about the travels of Bridget, Barnaby, Babette, and their feline friend Beauregard. Make sure that you have printed and read the selection in the Class 4 handout.



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

2. There was a _____ hole in his pants because he tried to climb over the barbed wire fence.
6. Small animals _____ the woods.
8. Relating to a concentration of power in a leader or an elite not responsible to the people.

Down

1. The _____ speaker proclaimed that his religion is the only true religion in the world.
3. He paints a _____ picture of a company that has lost its way.
4. When I said that it was her fault, she _____ by reminding me of the mistakes that I had made.
5. Hostile and aggressive.
7. There was much _____ between the two groups of politicians who regarded each other as enemies.
8. Failure to follow the instructions when taking this strong medication would result in _____ side effects.

A) Use a good dictionary to find the definitions of the words below. Write down the definitions in the space provided.

1. Reminisce: _____
2. Cliché: _____
3. Feud: _____
4. Clamor: _____
5. Adverse: _____

B) RELATIONSHIPS

Decide what relationship the following pairs of words have to each other. If they have similar meanings, write "S" next to the pair of words. If they have opposite meanings, write "O" next to the words.

1. ___ abdicate :: relinquish
2. ___ animosity :: contempt
3. ___ deference :: impudence
4. ___ foe :: comrade
5. ___ gorge :: devour
6. ___ anarchy :: chaos
7. ___ melee :: skirmish
8. ___ lenient :: authoritarian
9. ___ tolerance :: bigotry
10. ___ impromptu :: ad-libbed
11. ___ reminisce :: forget

C) SENTENCE COMPLETION

Fill in the blanks with the help of the word bank below. Do not use any word more than once.

abdicate	animosity	deference	anarchy	melee
authoritarian	bigotry	impromptu	zeal	apathy

1. He refuses to be bitter, holds no _____, and is just as upbeat as he has always been.
2. He has been accused of using _____ tactics to crush dissent.
3. They live in a selfish world that encourages people to _____ responsibility.
4. _____ and obedience to one's elders are very important values, as are ideas of hospitality and social ties.
5. No one should have to live in fear because of the _____ and malicious discrimination of others.
6. A fight erupted between several party-goers and knives were used in the _____.
7. My co-workers know that value can emerge from unplanned, _____ hallway meetings.
8. This would spawn regional warfare and promote _____.
9. Try not to allow their _____ to affect your enthusiasm.

10. In their _____ to support a higher moral cause, they have lost touch with reality.

D) CREATING SENTENCES

Create your own sentence for each of the following words. Make sure that the sentences show that you really understand the meanings of the words.

1. Reminisce: _____

2. Authoritarian: _____

3. Impromptu: _____

4. Zeal: _____

5. Apathy: _____

THE END