

# EAPP 201 ESL Reading Techniques



## Context Clues

- Definition and Restatement
- Punctuation
- Synonyms
- Contrast Words and Phrases
- Antonyms
- Comparison Words and Phrases
- Addition Words and Phrases
- Example Words and Phrases



## Definition and Restatement Clues

A definition states the meaning of a word. Dictionaries give definitions of words. A restatement is a statement of the meaning in different words. Definitions and restatements usually come after the following words and phrases:

### Definition:

- ***be***
- ***mean***
- ***refer to***
- ***the definition of...is...***

### Restatement:

- ***that is*** (follows a **comma** and is a part of the same sentence)
- ***which is/are*** (follows a **comma** and is a part of the same sentence)
- ***which means that*** (follows a **comma** and is a part of the same sentence)
- ***in other words*** (can be followed by a **comma** and is a part of the same sentence or a **period** if it starts an independent clause)

Defined or restated words and their meanings are sometimes bolded or placed in italics or quotation marks

### Examples:

1. A sandwich **is** two or more slices of bread with a filling such as meat or cheese between them.
2. The word “pen” **means** “a tool for writing or drawing in ink”.
3. The word ***pen means*** “a tool for writing or drawing in ink”.
4. *The* “context” of an unknown word **refers to** “the other words and phrases that come before or after the unknown word in the sentence or paragraph”.
5. The **definition of** a *grade* is “the mark given to a student for work done or for a test or exam”.

6. Admission to some university programs depends on a student's high school *grades*, **that is**, the marks they got in high school courses.
7. Admission to some university programs depends on a student's high school *grades*, **which are** the marks they got in high school courses.
8. Admission to some university programs depends on a student's high school *grades*, **in other words**, the marks that they got in high school courses. (Why is there a comma instead of a period?)
9. Admission to some university programs depends on a student's high school *grades*. **In other words**, the marks that they got in high school courses need to be good. (Why is a second sentence necessary?)
10. The child was quite ***surly***, **which means that** he was very bad-tempered.

### Practice

Write definitions (D) for the words, using the different ways shown above. Then complete the restatement (R) sentence using any of the phrases above. Use the correct punctuation and capitalization.

library (n)

D: \_\_\_\_\_

R: For my research, I had to go to the **library**, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

computer (n)

D: \_\_\_\_\_

R: John got a **computer** for his birthday, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

cheerful (adj)

D: \_\_\_\_\_

R: My sister is a very **cheerful** person. \_\_\_\_\_

quickly (adv)

D: \_\_\_\_\_

R: The actor left the supermarket **quickly**, \_\_\_\_\_

## Punctuation Clues

“Punctuation” refers to “the mark (or markings) used to divide a piece of writing into phrases and sentences”. It is a very important aid in meaning. The chart below shows the meanings of different punctuation marks in text. **Punctuation often separates synonyms.**

Punctuation	What it looks like	How it is used in a sentence
parentheses	(       )	Peter typed his assignment in <i>italics</i> ( <i>a type of print with letters slanting to the right.</i> )
dash	——	<p>Peter typed his assignment in <i>italics</i>—<i>a type of print with letters slanting to the right.</i></p> <p>I couldn't understand the <b>topic</b>—<b>subject</b>—of his speech because I didn't</p> <p><b>Note:</b> a dash is longer than a hyphen. A hyphen is short, and it shows a compound word (non-smoker). A dash shows the meaning of the word.</p>
a comma	,	It is a good idea for your doctor to check your level of <b>cholesterol, a chemical substance in the blood.</b> .
two commas	,.....,	Cholesterol, <b>a chemical substance in the blood</b> , is found in many kinds of food.
commas + or	, or...,	<p>Cholesterol, or a chemical substance in the blood, is found in many kinds of food.</p> <p><b>Note the importance and the meaning of the comma in these two sentences:</b></p> <p>I don't like tea or coffee because they contain caffeine. (tea and coffee are different beverages)</p> <p>Sales of tea, or a beverage made from the leaves or flowers of a plant, have increased in the past ten years. (tea is defined)</p>

Punctuation	What it looks like	How it is used in a sentence
semi-colon	;	<p>I was <b>famished</b>; I got only light snacks during my eight-hour flight overnight.</p> <p>The second part of the sentence <b>explains the first part</b>. It provides supporting details. Your job as a reader is to understand the connection. The connection tells you that “<b>famished</b>” means “<b>very hungry</b>”.</p> <p>Be careful! The word “<b>famished</b>” does not mean “only light snacks during my eight-hour flight overnight”.</p>
colon	:	<p>Many visitors come to Toronto because of its <b>attractions</b>: the CN Tower, the Royal Ontario Museum, the annual Caribana parade, etc.</p> <p>A colon is used to list items that belong to the same category. When you have the examples, it is easier to get the meaning of the category.</p> <p>The word “<b>attractions</b>” means “interesting things to do or see”. It does <b>not mean</b> “the CN Tower, the Royal Ontario Museum”, etc. These are just examples.</p> <p><b>THE EXAMPLE IS NOT THE MEANING OF A WORD.</b></p>

## Synonyms (+ Punctuation)

**Synonyms are words with similar meanings. “Pretty,” “beautiful” and “lovely” are examples of synonyms. They all have meanings that are about the same.**

**Synonyms can be useful context clues, and they are separated by commas, dashes, or parentheses. In the examples below, pay close attention to how punctuation is used to identify similar meanings.**

When learning new vocabulary, it is important to remember and understand the synonyms of a word.

Each sentence below uses a synonym as a context clue. Underline the synonym for each word in italics.

1. Larry was a ***bright***, or intelligent, student in all of his subjects. (comma + “or”)  
Larry was a ***bright***—intelligent—student in all of his subjects. (dashes)  
Larry was a ***bright*** (intelligent) student in all of his subjects. (parentheses)  
Larry was a ***bright*** student; he was one of the most intelligent students in all of his subjects. (semi-colon + synonym)
2. My company has a ***regulation*** allowing new mothers to take three months off from work. I think there should be a rule allowing fathers the same time off.
3. It is hard to believe that my millionaire cousin was once ***indigent***, so poor that he walked the streets without knowing where his next meal would come from.

### Answers:

1. Someone who is *bright* is “intelligent.”
2. A *regulation* is a “rule.”
3. Someone who is *indigent* is “poor.”



**Practice:** In each sentence, underline the synonym for the word in *italics*. Each synonym may be one or more words.

1. Jim is one of the best ***patrons*** of Helen's Diner. He's a good customer because he comes every day and leaves big tips.

**Patron** means:

- a. a guest at the restaurant      b. a waiter      c. a food

2. While your ***vocation*** is important, most experts advise that you treat it for what it is—a job, not your entire life.

**Vocation** means:

- a. your holiday      b. your work      c. your relaxation

3. Dr. Jonas Salk, one of the most ***eminent***, or famous, scientists in the world, came to speak at our school.

**Eminent** means:

- a. intelligent      b. interesting      c. well-known

4. Your idea that people from outer space are living in your house is ***absurd***. That idea is as crazy as the belief that the earth is flat.

**Absurd** means:

- a. great      b. foolish      c. old

5. The dress she wore was ***dowdy***. The style and material were old-fashioned and dull.

**Dowdy** means:

- a. beautiful      b. modern      c. unstylish

6. The problem **confounded** the scientists. The fact that the chemical caused adult fish to die but had no effect on younger fish puzzled them.

**Confounded** means:

- a. confused                      b. interested                      c. pleased

7. The young man's story about the robbery was so **convoluted** the police couldn't follow the complicated explanations.

**Convoluted** means:

- a. simple                      b. mixed up                      c. direct

8. The police **probed** John's personal history. They looked into his medical and employment records for information that might help them in their investigation.

**Probed** means:

- a. researched                      b. fixed                      c. liked

9. Phillip and Jim **swapped** Centennial College t-shirts. Phillip exchanged his green t-shirt for Jim's red one. They were both satisfied.

**Swapped** means:

- a. bought                      b. switched                      c. painted

10. The little boy was **cheeky**. I couldn't believe he said what he did. He was so disrespectful. He told the woman she was fat.

**Cheeky** means:

- a. angry                      b. polite                      c. impolite

## Practice

Rewrite the following sentences, using parentheses, dashes, and commas (with and without “or”), using the meaning of the bolded word stated in parentheses.

### Example:

*The building was **unfamiliar** to me. (new)*

*The building was unfamiliar (new) to me.*

*The building was unfamiliar—new—to me*

*The building was unfamiliar, or new, to me.*

1. Reading an **assortment** of books can improve your vocabulary. (variety)

---

---

---

2. In this course, you will learn several **strategies** for understanding unknown words. (ways)

---

---

---

3. Reading in another language is like working on a **puzzle**. (a game in which you have to fit different pieces together)

---

---

---

## Contrast Words and Phrases


Another clue to meaning can be a word or phrase that shows a connection between ideas in sentences. Look at the two sentences below:

1. *Coming from a poor family, she grew up in poverty. **However**, she now lives in **luxury**.*

The word “however” expresses an opposite meaning to the first sentence. “Poverty” is the noun from “poor”. Therefore, the word “luxury” is an **antonym** (a word with the opposite meaning) of “poverty”. “Luxury” means “great comfort and pleasure due to expensive food, beautiful housing, cars, etc”.

Contrast words and phrases show **different or opposite meanings**. The chart below shows the common contrast words and phrases. Different contrast words and phrases are used differently in sentences, so study the differences in sentence structure, punctuation, and capitalization. Pay close attention to the different **parts of speech** (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, pronoun) in the sentences.

Kind of contrast word or phrase	Contrast word or phrase	How the word or phrase is used
<b>Transition word or phrase</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shows a relationship between ideas in two sentences. It is a “bridge” that helps the reader to “jump” from one sentence or independent clause to another.</li> </ul> <b>Grammar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starts the second sentence with a capital letter; a period comes after the first sentence.</li> <li>Starts the second independent clause of the same sentence with a small letter; a semi-colon comes after the first clause.</li> <li>A comma comes after the transition word or phrase.</li> </ul>	however on the other hand conversely in contrast	<p>She grew up in a very poor family. <b>However</b>, she now lives in <u><b>luxury</b></u></p> <p>She grew up in a very poor family; <b>however</b>, she now lives in <u><b>luxury</b></u>.</p> <p>She grew up in a very poor family. <b>On the other hand</b>, she now lives in <u><b>luxury</b></u>.</p> <p>She grew up in a very poor family; <b>on the other hand</b>, she now lives in <u><b>luxury</b></u>.</p> <p>She grew up in a very poor family. <b>In contrast</b>, she now lives in <u><b>luxury</b></u>.</p> <p>She grew up in a very poor family; <b>in contrast</b>, she now lives in <u><b>luxury</b></u>.</p>

Kind of contrast word or phrase	Contrast word or phrase	How the word or phrase is used
<p><b>Conjunction / Coordinating Conjunction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>joins words, phrases, or independent clauses into <b>one</b> unit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not used with a capital letter.</li> <li>A comma comes before the conjunction.</li> </ul>	<p>but</p>	<p>She grew up in a very poor family, <b>but</b> she now lives in <u>luxury</u>.</p> <p><b>Incorrect:</b></p> <p><del>She grew up in a very poor family. But she now lives in luxury.</del> <b>X</b></p>
<p><b>Subordinating Conjunction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joins a dependent clause to an independent <b>clause in the same sentence</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comma if the dependent clause comes after the main clause.</li> <li>A comma if the dependent clause starts the sentence.</li> </ul> <p><i>Remember:</i></p> <div data-bbox="183 1402 297 1524" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>IC DC</p> <p>DC, IC</p> </div> <p><b>*Note <u>the exception to the comma rule</u> when using <i>while</i> and <i>whereas</i> to show contrast</b></p> <div data-bbox="211 1759 519 1785" style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p><b>Special subordinating conjunctions to express a surprise or unexpected fact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>although</li> <li>even though</li> </ul> <p>while (<i>while can be used as a contrast word to emphasize the difference between two situations, activities etc</i>)</p> <p>whereas</p> <p><b>(*With <i>whereas</i> and <i>while</i>, use a comma even if the dependent clause is last)</b></p>	<p>She grew up in a very poor family <b>although</b> she now lives in <u>luxury</u>.</p> <p>She grew up in a very poor family <b>even though</b> she now lives in <u>luxury</u>.</p> <p><b>Although</b> she now lives in <u>luxury</u>, she grew up in a very poor family.</p> <p><b>Even though</b> she now lives in <u>luxury</u>, she grew up in a very poor family.</p> <p><b>While</b> John is very <u>studious</u>, his roommate hates studying.</p> <p>John is very <u>studious</u>, <b>while</b> his roommate hates studying.</p> <p>Urban areas have excellent cell service, <b>while</b> rural areas have less reliable cell service.</p> <p><b>While</b> urban areas have excellent cell service, rural areas have less reliable cell service.</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> John is very <u>studious</u>, his roommate hates studying.</p> <p>John's roommate hates studying, <b>whereas</b> John is very <u>studious</u>.</p>

Kind of contrast word or phrase	Contrast word or phrase	How the word or phrase is used
<p><b>Prepositions and prepositional phrases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show relationships between a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be followed by a noun, a pronoun, or a gerund (verb+ing).</li> <li>Can come at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence.</li> <li>A comma follows the prepositional phrase at the beginning of the sentence.</li> </ul>	<p>unlike</p> <p>in contrast to</p> <p>not as ____ as</p>	<p>A pit bull is <b><u>ferocious</u></b>, <b>unlike</b> a collie, which is a very gentle and friendly dog.</p> <p><b>Unlike</b> a collie, which is a very gentle and friendly dog, a pit bull is <b><u>ferocious</u></b>.</p> <p><b>In contrast to</b> a collie, which is a very gentle and friendly dog, a pit bull is ferocious.</p> <p>A pit bull is a <b><u>ferocious</u></b> dog. It is <b>not as</b> gentle and friendly <b>as</b> a collie.</p>
<p><b>Verb</b></p> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject-verb agreement</li> </ul>	<p>differ from</p>	<p>A pit bull <b>differs from</b> a collie. A pit bull is <b><u>ferocious</u></b>, but a collie is a very gentle and friendly dog.</p> <p>Pit bulls <b>differ from</b> collies. Pit bulls are ferocious, but collies are very gentle and friendly dogs.</p>
<p><b>Adjective</b></p> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most often follows the verb “be” or other linking verb</li> </ul>	<p>--er than</p> <p>more ____ than</p> <p>less ____ than</p> <p>different from</p> <p>(most often used with the verb <b>be</b> and often requires two sentences.)</p> <p><b>Note: Do not start a sentence with “different from”.</b></p> <p><b>This phrase is not a transition.</b></p>	<p>A collie is <b>friendlier than</b> a pit bull.</p> <p>A pit bull is <b>more aggressive than</b> a collie.</p> <p>A collie is <b>less aggressive than</b> a pit bull.</p> <p>A pit bull <u>is</u> <b>different from</b> a collie. A pit bull is <b><u>ferocious</u></b>, but a collie is a very gentle and friendly dog.</p> <p><b>Incorrect:</b></p> <p>Different from a collie, which is a very gentle and friendly dog, a pit bull is ferocious. <b>X</b></p>

## Antonyms

**Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. For example, *tall* is the opposite of *short*; *difficult* is the opposite of *easy*.**

**Antonyms can be useful context clues. Antonyms are often signaled by contrast words such as *unlike*, *but*, *however*, *instead of*, *in contrast*, or *on the other hand*.**

**It's important to remember and understand the antonyms of a word.**

Each sentence below uses an antonym as a context clue.

- 1) Underline the antonyms for each word in italics.
- 2) Circle the letter of the meaning of the words in italics.

1. The ***adverse*** weather conditions forced us to stay inside for most of our vacation. The day the weather finally turned nice, we had to leave.

**Adverse means**

- a. nice                      b. bad                      c. summer

2. I thought it was difficult to ***ascend*** the mountain, but the climb down was even worse.

**Ascend means to**

- a. climb up                      b. walk around                      c. climb down

3. After years of ***defying*** my parents, I decided life might be better if I tried agreeing with them once in a while.

**Defying means**

- a. avoiding                      b. obeying                      c. challenging

**Answers:**

**If you looked for the antonyms of the words in italics, you will have come up with these answers.**

1.      b.      bad. *Adverse* weather conditions are the opposite of “nice” ones.
2.      a.      climb up. To *ascend* is the opposite of the “climb down.”
3.      c.      challenging. Instead of “agreeing” with his or her parents, the speaker did the opposite –he or she was in the habit of *defying* them.

**Practice:**

- a. **Underline the antonym for the word in italics. Each antonym may be one or more words.**
- b. **Circle the letter of the meaning of the word in italics.**

1. Your science project is much more ***elaborate*** than mine. In fact, mine looks simple compared to yours.

**Elaborate** means:

- a. plain                      b. large                      c. complicated

2. Gordon would not remain an ***obscure*** author all his life. He knew that someday he would be famous.

**Obscure** means:

- a. unknown                      b. well-known                      c. good

3. The attorney introduced facts she felt were ***relevant*** to the case, but the judge said the facts were unrelated to it.

**Relevant** means:

- a. legal                      b. related                      c. known

4. When you write an essay that gives instructions, the steps must be given in ***sequence***. If they are out of order, your readers will become confused.

**Sequence** means:

- a. all at once                      b. in an order                      c. not in order

5. The bank president assigned ***trivial*** problems to new employees; however, he gave serious problems to experienced workers.

**Trivial** means:

- a. important                      b. customers                      c. unimportant



6. I've never seen such a **glum** face. I would prefer to see a cheerful one.

**Glum** means:

- a. happy                      b. ugly                      d. gloomy

7. The employees that are **diligent** are usually rewarded with promotions. On the other hand, employees who are lazy are the first to lose their jobs.

**Diligent** means:

- a. hard working                      b. slow                      c. irresponsible

8. Although he is **negligent** about paying his taxes, Peter is always careful about his health and his appearance.

**Negligent** means:

- a. takes care                      b. irresponsible                      c. slow

9. The information clerk at the library **hindered** Mary's search for information rather than helped. He gave her the wrong reference numbers.

**Hindered** means:

- a. delayed                      b. assisted                      c. helped

10. I thought my design was **flawless**. Jeff, on the other hand, didn't think it was perfect. He saw that the doors were too high and the windows were too small.

**Flawless** means:

- a. problematic                      b. inaccurate                      c. without mistakes

**Practice**

**Use the context clues to get the meanings of the bolded words.**

1. I thought I was **delusional**; however, when I looked out the window again, I saw the giant man clearly. I was not crazy.

**What is the contrast word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the antonym?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Delusional means:**

- a. imagining things      b. clear headed      c. surprised

2. Although he was **lax** about cleaning his home, he was very strict about keeping up with his studies.

**What is the contrast word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the antonym?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lax means:**

- a. careful      b. careless      c. hated

3. I **declined** his offer to help me with my homework. On the other hand, I accepted his offer to make me dinner. He made me a great stew.

**What is the contrast word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the antonym?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Declined means:**

- a. refused      b. took      c. asked for

## Comparison Words and Phrases

The words and phrases in the chart below show similarity.

Kind of comparison word or phrase	Comparison word or phrase	How the word or phrase is used
<p><b>Transition word or phrase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows a relationship between ideas in two sentences. It is a “bridge” that helps the reader to “jump” from one sentence or independent clause to another.</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starts the second sentence with a capital letter; a period comes after the first sentence.</li> <li>Starts the second independent clause of the same sentence with a small letter; a semi-colon comes after the first clause.</li> <li>A comma comes after the transition word or phrase.</li> </ul>	<p>similarly</p> <p>in the same way</p> <p>likewise</p>	<p>My parents were <b>strict</b> with me and my two brothers. <b>Similarly</b>, I expect my children to obey basic rules at home and when they go out.</p> <p>My parents were <b>strict</b> with me and my two brothers. <b>In the same way</b>, I expect my children to obey basic rules at home and when they go out.</p> <p>My parents were <b>strict</b> with me. <b>Likewise</b>, I expect my children to obey basic rules at home and when they go out.</p>
<p><b>Prepositions and prepositional phrases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>show relationships between nouns and</li> </ul> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be followed by a noun, a pronoun, or a gerund (verb+ing)</li> <li>Can come at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence</li> </ul>	<p>like</p> <p>the same as</p> <p>as ____ as ____</p> <p>just as ____ as ____</p>	<p>My parents were <u>strict</u> with me. <b>Like</b> my parents, I expect my children to obey basic rules at home when they go out.</p> <p>I am <b>the same as</b> my parents. They were <u>strict</u> with me, and I expect my children to obey basic rules at home when they go out.</p> <p>Maria is <b>just as</b> <u>affable</u> <b>as</b> her mother. Her mother is very friendly.</p>

Kind of comparison word or phrase	Comparison word or phrase	How the word or phrase is used
<b>Adverb</b>  <b>Grammar:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs</li> </ul>	<p>equally</p> <p>either</p> <p>too (when “too” comes in the middle of a sentence, put a comma before and after it)</p>	<p>I was <b><u>perplexed</u></b> when I found the classroom empty. I was <b>equally</b> surprised that the computer lab was empty. Then I remembered that it was a holiday.</p> <p>John is a <b><u>hoarder</u></b>. His sister doesn’t like to throw anything out <b>either</b>. (This means that they are both hoarders.)</p> <p>My parents were <b><u>strict</u></b> with me. I, <b>too</b>, expect my children to obey basic rules at home and when they go out.</p> <p>My parents were <b><u>strict</u></b> with me. I am strict <b>too</b>. I expect my children to obey basic rules at home and when they go out.</p>
<b>Adjective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adjectives describe nouns, pronouns, or gerunds</li> </ul>	<p>similar to</p> <p>equal to</p> <p>comparable to</p>	<p>My parents were <b><u>strict</u></b> with me. <b>Similar</b> to my parents, I expect my children to obey basic rules at home and when they go out.</p> <p>The membership fees at GetFit fitness club are <b><u>equal to</u></b> the membership fees at Powerfit.</p> <p>The <b><u>exorbitant</u></b> prices of clothing at Holt Renfrew are <b>comparable to</b> the high prices at Celine.</p>
<b>Conjunction</b>	<p>both</p>	<p><b>Both</b> cats and dogs are <b><u>domestic</u></b> animals. They live in people’s homes.</p>

**Practice**

**Use the context clues to get the meanings of the bolded words.**

1. Francine was **lethargic** after she caught a cold. Similarly, Phil didn't have much energy either when he caught Francine's cold.

**What is the comparison word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the synonym or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lethargic means:**

- a. without energy                      b. active                      c. cold

2. When he told me he loved me, I knew he was **insincere**. He's the same as his brother, who is always dishonest about his feelings for his wife.

**What is the comparison word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the synonym or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insincere means:**

- a. honest                      b. confused                      c. not truthful

3. Jim and Bill were **peculiar** men. Both acted in unusual ways.

**What is the comparison word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the synonym or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Peculiar means:**

- a. bad                      b. strange                      c. average

4. Phylis' paintings were **drab**. Evelyn's were just as colourless as Phylis' paintings.

**What is the comparison word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the synonym or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**drab means:**

- a. dull                      b. interesting                      c. bad

Writers often use words that show they are continuing the same thought. These words and phrases introduce new ideas or points that **add to** what has already been said and give clues to meaning. Study the chart below.

Practice Sheet developed by: D. Shibata, EAPP. Adapted from: From ***Ground Work for College Reading***, Bill Broderick, Townsend Press

**Practice**

1. Sue was **deceptive** about her plans. She told one person that she was moving, but she told another person that she was staying. Furthermore, she was dishonest about her relationships.

**What is the addition word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What information is a hint to the meaning of the word?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deceptive means:**

- a. not telling the truth      b. clear      c. confused

2. The old house was scary. The floors were **creaky**. In addition, you could hear when anyone opened a bedroom door.

**What is the addition word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What information is a hint to the meaning of the word?** \_\_\_\_\_

**creaky means:**

- a. not working      b. noisy      c. dry

3. They were so **needy** that they sometimes didn't eat meals. Moreover, they had to borrow blankets on cold nights and slept in their car.

**What is the addition word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What information is a hint to the meaning of the word?** \_\_\_\_\_

**needy means:**

- a. tired      b. uncomfortable      c. poor

## Example Words and Phrases

Authors often use examples to explain an idea. Here are some common words that introduce examples. **Be careful. The example is not the meaning of the word. The meaning is what the examples have in common.**

Kind of example word or phrase	Example word or phrase	How the word or phrase is used.
<p><b>Transition</b></p> <p>A transition is a word or phrase that shows a relationship between ideas in two sentences. It is a “bridge” that helps the reader to “jump” from one sentence or independent clause to another. It is a “bridge” from one sentence or independent clause to another.</p> <p><b>Grammar:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Starts the second sentence with a capital letter; a period comes after the first sentence.</li> <li>Starts the second independent clause of the same sentence with a small letter; a semi-colon comes after the first clause.</li> <li>A comma comes after the transition word or phrase.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In the same sentence</u>, these phrases are used to give examples. In this case, they must always be followed by nouns, pronouns, or gerunds.</b></p> <p><b>SPECIAL PHRASES &amp; SPECIAL RULES (“such as” and “including”)</b></p> <p><b>No comma before “such as”</b></p> <p><b>“Such as” NEVER starts a sentence.</b></p> <p><b>A comma before “including”</b></p>	<p>for example</p> <p>for instance</p> <p>to illustrate</p>	<p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extracurricular</u></b> activities. <b>For example</b>, most institutions have basketball, football, and swimming teams.</p> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extracurricular</u></b> activities; <b>for example</b>, most institutions have basketball, football, and swimming teams.</p> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extracurricular</u></b> activities. <b>For instance</b>, most institutions have basketball, football, and swimming teams.</p> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extracurricular</u></b> activities; <b>for instance</b>, most institutions have basketball, football, and swimming teams.</p> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extracurricular</u></b> activities. <b>To illustrate</b>, most institutions have basketball, football, and swimming teams.</p> <p><b>Note the grammar and punctuation in these examples in <u>one sentence</u>:</b></p> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extra-curricular</u></b> activities, <b>for example</b>, basketball, football, and swimming.</p> <hr/> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extra-curricular</u></b> activities <b>such as</b> basketball, football, and swimming.</p> <p>Colleges and universities offer many <b><u>extra-curricular</u></b> activities, <b>including</b> basketball, football, and swimming.</p>



Centennial College: M. Fortin

**Practice****Use the context clues to get the meanings of the bolded words.**

1. **Assets** such as good health, a loving family, and a job you enjoy make life rewarding.

**What is the example word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is/ are the example(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**assets means:**

- a. things of value      b. good things for a job      c. helpful people

2. **Conspicuous** features, including a muscular build, good looks, and a height of 210 cm, attract people's attention to Jack wherever he goes.

**What is the example word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is/ are the example(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**conspicuous means:**

- a. large      b. noticeable      c. famous

3. The car had **defects**, for example, a dented fender and torn seats, but I didn't care. I had wanted a Corvette sports car for years, and I was going to buy it.

**What is the example word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is/ are the example(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**defects are:**

- a. nice things      b. damaged things      c. interesting things

4. Cole has a very large new home. He even has an indoor swimming pool whose **dimensions** include: a length of 50 m , a width of 5 m, and a depth of 7 m.

**What is the example word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is/ are the example(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**dimensions are:**

- a. benefits      b. costs      c. measurements

5. The Toronto Zoo is famous for its wide variety of animals. It not only has native ones such as foxes and raccoons, but it also has **exotic** animals, including lowland gorillas, Royal Bengal tigers, and snow leopards.

**What is the example word or phrase?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What is/ are the example(s)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**exotic means:**

- a. unusual                      b. native                      c. ordinary

## More Practice

### Practice Exercise 1

Fill each blank with one of the words in the box. Use the punctuation to guide you. A transition word may be used more than once.

even though	including	furthermore	for example
moreover	similar to	different from	however

1. \_\_\_\_\_ he didn't get his raise, he bought a new car and a suit.

**What kind of transition/word clue is used?** \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jackie is very talented. She is an expert in world history. \_\_\_\_\_, she has written books on economics and mathematics.

**What kind of transition/word clue is used?** \_\_\_\_\_

4. The seasons of Nunavut are \_\_\_\_\_ the seasons of the Yukon. The winters are long and cold, and the summers are short.

**What kind of transition/word clue is used?** \_\_\_\_\_

5. James was so lucky to win the draw. He won a number of prizes, \_\_\_\_\_ a CD, a cell phone, and tickets to a Blue Jays game.

**What kind of transition/word clue is used?** \_\_\_\_\_

6. The subways need to be cleaned and updated. \_\_\_\_\_, the fares should be lowered for students and the elderly.

**What kind of transition/word clue is used?** \_\_\_\_\_

## Practice Exercise 2

**Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase. Then underline the kind of word you chose.**

### Example:

Phillip's house was totally destroyed by fire yesterday. Phillip needs a place to stay. In addition, he needs food and clothes.

**(In addition, However, Similarly)**

The word/phrase indicates: Contrast Addition Comparison Example

1. a. The Plaza Hotel is a luxury hotel. \_\_\_\_\_, Joe's Motel is simple and cheap.

**(Comparable to, On the other hand, Moreover, In addition)**

- b. The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example

2. a. To get high marks on my tests, I organize my notes in advance. I \_\_\_\_\_ review my lessons on a daily basis.

**(for example, also, in the same way, too)**

- b. The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example

3. a. \_\_\_\_\_ Tom is always late for morning classes, he gets angry at his children when they are late for their classes.

**(Even though, In the same way, Furthermore, Similarly)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

4. a. Water is necessary for the health of our bodies. \_\_\_\_\_, it is very important in transportation, manufacturing, and recreation.

**(Similarly, Furthermore, For instance, On the other hand)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

5. a. Senior citizens have a lot to teach young people. \_\_\_\_\_, my grandmother taught me about keeping friends and treating other people well.

**(However, Similarly, To illustrate, And)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

6. a. \_\_\_\_\_ New York, Tokyo has many problems like pollution, traffic jams, and expensive housing.

**(Different from, Similar to, For example, Even though)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

7. a. We don't drive cars, and Phil doesn't \_\_\_\_\_. He takes the bus and subway to get to work.

**(in addition, including, either, similar to)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

8. a. Tourist attractions \_\_\_\_\_ the CN Tower make Toronto a great place for visitors to enjoy themselves.

**(such as, also, but, for example)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

9. a. I feel proud when I pass a course even if my final grade is low \_\_\_\_\_. Jack feels he must be at the top of each of his classes.

**(whereas, equally, moreover, however)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

10. a. I will never serve guests alcohol late at night. \_\_\_\_\_, I won't allow them to drive home if they have had too much to drink.

**(Conversely, For instance, Furthermore)**

- b. *The word/phrase shows: Contrast Addition Comparison Example*

**Practice Exercise 3:****A. Using Transition Words to Guess Meanings**

**Use the transition words to guess the words that should go in the blanks.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ without butter or salt is a light healthy snack.  
Furthermore, it is fun to eat during movies.
2. The air in the desert is very dry. In contrast, the air in the tropical rainforest is very \_\_\_\_\_
3. Chris is very \_\_\_\_\_. To illustrate, when he found money on the sidewalk, he immediately took it to the police.
4. The bargains at Zellers are comparable to the \_\_\_\_\_ at Walmart.

**B. Use the context to explain the meanings of the underlined words.**

1. Grace is an atrocious player. Unlike Grace, Judy is a very good player.
2. My room is spotless, unlike Jim's, which is dirty.
3. Every day, Sam enters his office noisily. In the same way, his children boisterously run into their classrooms.
4. Some kinds of large fish eat only crustaceans such as lobster, crabs, shrimp, and snails.

**Practice Exercise 4: Figuring Out New Vocabulary from Context**

Often the context of a new word contains no examples, synonyms, or antonyms. How, then, can you understand the word without looking them up in the dictionary? You can use the general sense of the sentence or passage. With careful reading, your own experience and understanding will give you the meaning of the word.

In each sentence below, look for general clues to the meaning of the word in *italics*. Circle the letter of the word(s) closest in meaning to the word in *italics*.

1. Steve lived happily in Toronto for fifteen years, so it is hard for me to ***comprehend*** why he decided to move to Iqaluit.

***Comprehend*** means to

- a. plan            b. believe            c. understand

2. Carol and Dan went to an animal shelter to adopt a puppy. Carol fell in love with a poodle, and Dan wanted a collie. They felt that there was no ***alternative*** but to keep both animals.

An ***alternative*** is a

- a. choice            b. reason            c. confusion

3. As a ***consequence*** of his bad report card, my brother could not watch TV until his teacher said he was improving.

A ***consequence*** is a

- a. right            b. result            c. chance

**Answers:**

**Each sentence provides context clues that become clear if you read carefully.**

1. To comprehend something means to “understand” something. The speaker could not understand why his friend Steve would move from Toronto to Iqaluit.
2. An alternative is a “choice”. Carol and Dan felt they had no choice but to take both dogs home.
3. A consequence is a “result”. The result of the brother’s bad report card was not being able to watch TV until teachers reported that he had improved.

Practice Sheet developed by: D. Shibata, EAPP. Adapted from: From ***Ground Work for College Reading***, Bill Broderick, Townsend Press

**Practice Exercise 5**

In each sentence below, you must use your experience and general understanding to figure out the meaning of the word in bold *italics*. Think about the situation in which the word is used, and then circle the meaning of the word.

1. Jesse was surprised when his speech ***elicited*** laughs from the audience; he was perfectly serious about his topic.

***Elicited*** means:

- a. brought out                      b. hid                      c. included

2. Elena thought she had ***ample*** time before the afternoon's midterm exam. Then she discovered her watch was incorrect. She was actually late for the test.

***Ample*** means:

- a. enough                      b. no                      c. little

3. My brother felt it would be ***futile*** to try to become a member of the basketball team. He was too short to compete with the others; they were all at least 15 cm taller than he was.

***Futile*** means:

- a. successful                      b. hopeful                      c. useless

4. The ***impact*** of the crash was so great that you couldn't tell the make of either car. Each car was totally destroyed.

***Impact*** means:

- a. force                      b. time                      c. place

5. The young bird's first flight showed what a ***novice*** he was at flying. He had problems landing in a tree. In fact, he almost fell out of it.

***Novice*** means:

- a. bird                      b. success                      c. beginner



6. Lucy is so ***gullible*** that she'll believe anything you make up. She trusted me the other day when I told her that milk has a lot of caffeine.

***Gullible*** means:

- a. clever    b. easy to fool    c. willing to learn

7. After standing empty for fifteen years, the old house had ***deteriorated***. The wood was rotting and the plaster was falling down. Moreover, most of the windows were broken.

***Deteriorated*** means:

- a. become older    b. become worse    c. become empty

8. I find that if I ***adhere*** to the same schedule, I accomplish more. When I don't follow a set routine, I don't get much done.

***Adhere*** means:

- a. keep    b. buy    c. fit

9. Please ***refrain*** from feeding the animals. They will get sick if they don't follow their regular diet.

***Refrain*** means:

- a. think about    b. continue    c. do not (do something)

10. Mark tried to ***solicit*** his friend's help. He called his friend several times and even visited his home. His friend, however, told him he was busy.

***Solicit*** means:

- a. find    b. ask for    c. show