

Types of Context Clues

- Definition or Synonym
 - The context literally states the definition
 - Answers the question “What is it?”
 - The meaning
 - follows the word immediately
 - follows signal words: *is, means, called, refers to...*
 - appears between commas, parentheses, or dashes
 - Example: “**Capital** is an asset that can be used to produce an income.”
- Examples or illustrations of the term are given, often introduced with
 - signal words: *for example, for instance, such as, including*
 - Example: “**Entrepreneurs**, including Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates, initiate societal change through the technological advancements their companies create.”
- Comparison & Contrast
 - provide synonyms for the new terms in the sentence
 - signal words for comparison: *alike, like, similarly, in comparison, as ... as, same*
 - Example: “When the US imports more than it exports, we have a trade **deficit**. Similarly, a store manager who buys more than he sells will create a financial deficit.”
 - signal words for contrasts: *but, on the other hand, in contrast to, however, although, unlike*
 - Example: “The drug is often prescribed for its **soporific** effect; however, some patients experience sleeplessness upon taking it.
- General Information
 - information provided in the term’s context generally helps the reader infer its meaning
 - Example: “Robert could not sink the eight ball through a straightforward shot, so he **methodically** began practicing shots banked off of different table bumpers.”

Teach Students Use Context Clues to Answer Open Response Question:

| CONTEXT CLUES TYPES | → | IN RESPONSE TO POWER VERBS |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Definition or synonym clues | → | <i>DEFINE</i> |
| Example clues | → | <i>DEMONSTRATE</i> |
| Comparison & Contrast clues | → | <i>COMPARE</i> or <i>CONTRAST</i> |
| General information clues | → | Contribute to <i>INTERPRET</i> |