



รายการโทรทัศน์เพื่อการศึกษา  
ระดับมัธยมศึกษาตอนปลาย  
ภาษาอังกฤษ ตอนที่ 4  
(Context Clues in Word Meaning)

โดย

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## Context Clues in Word Meaning

Often the meaning of an unfamiliar word can be learned from the context in which it is used. There are several types of context clues.

### A. Definition Type

The definition of each of the unknown words is given in the expression that comes right after or before it. The clues of this type are:

Be	which means	means	be called	consist of	Refer to
may be seen as	can be defined as	may be described as	can be thought of		

#### Examples:

- I. The committee **may be defined as** any group interacting in regard to a common purpose.
- II. The main sections of a story book **are called** chapters.

### B. Restatement Type

The meaning of the unknown word can be found from the idea repeated in the known word. The repetition of idea is shown by

Or	to put in another way	i.e.	that is	, (comma)
In other words	that is to say	-(dash)	(...) (parentheses)	

#### Examples:

- I. These two circles are concentric. **In other words**, they have the same center.
- II. Some people like to hitch hike - to travel by asking car or truck drivers for free rides-because they think it is fun.

### Mini-test I

**Directions: Read the following statements and find the clue that signals the meaning of each underlined word or phrase. Write the clues and the meaning of the words in the blanks.**

1. His manner of **admonishing**-by sharply criticizing- was extremely embarrassing.

Clues:..... Admonishing means.....

2. The pigs crowded around the **trough** ( a long, narrow container) after the boy had.

Clues:..... Trough means.....

3. The **stem** of a tree, in other words its trunk, branches and twigs, perform several function.

Clues:..... The stem of a tree means.....

4. He is standing on the **porch**- a door way or entrance to a building.

Clues:..... Porch means.....

5. Newspaper headlines often show the **bias**, or feeling, of the writer about the news story.

Clues:..... Bias means.....

6. **Circulate** means to move around and return to the same place.

Clues:..... Circulate means.....

7. The term **New Immigration** refers to people who arrived in America from ago and adopted in Japan around 1922.

Clues:..... New Immigration means.....

8. **Karate** is an unarmed fighting art which was developed in Okinawa centuries ago and adopted in Japan around 1922.

Clues:..... Karate means.....

9. The art of making women's hats is called **millinery**.

Clues:..... Millinery means.....

10. **Retrieval** is the process by which we draw upon the information in memory.

Clues:..... Retrieval means.....

**Directions: Read the following information and choose the correct meaning for each underlined word.**

1. If you put too much air in that balloon it will **burst**. The air pressure will make it explode. You will hear a loud noise when this happens.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. be under pressure | 2. make no noise |
| 3. have air inside   | 4. explode       |

2. "The **revival** of this man is impossible," said the doctor. He is dead. We cannot bring him back to life. I'm very sorry.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. making something live  | 2. dying in the hospital |
| 3. making life impossible | 4. being sorry.          |

3. I looked out the window, but the train was moving too fast for me to see anything clearly. Everything was a **blur**.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. slow       | 2. not clear |
| 3. not moving | 4. inside    |

4. The boy fell off his bike and **banged** his head on the rock. His head was bleeding from having hit the rock, and he had to go to the hospital for help.

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|-----------|---------|
| 1. helped | 2. rode |
| 3. hit    | 4. bled |

5. The Woman's Army Corps was **founded** in 1942.

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|---------------|----------------|
| 1. supported  | 2. established |
| 3. discovered | 4. emphasized  |

### C. Modifiers

#### Examples:

1. Buffaloes, cows and horses are **herbivorous** animals that feed only on plants.
2. Most people buy their house on a ten year **installment plan**, paying 5,000 baht monthly.

In the first sentence the meaning of the unknown word is explained by the modifying clause that comes right after. In the second the word is explained by a phrase.

The CLAUSES are headed by which, who, whom, that, where,.....,etc.

The CLAUSES are headed by : Verb + ing/ V-ed(V 3)

### D. Sentence or Paragraph

The sentence(s) or paragraph that comes after or before the unknown word explains what the word means.

#### Examples:

Most girls are more **studious** than boys. They always study hard for their exams.

*The second sentence gives a hint to the meaning of the underlined word.*

### Mini-Test II

**Directions: Read the following sentences and choose the best alternative that gives the best meaning of each underlined word.**

1. People who work well and live happily with others are **cooperatives**.

1. able to work hard	2. diligent and honest
3. willing to share ideas with others	4. friendly
2. Please stop asking those silly questions. You are **hindering** me in my work by talking all the time.

1. promoting	2. interfering
3. discouraging	4. complaining
3. The girl had a **lesion** on her left arm that would not stop bleeding.

1. an injury or wound	2. a dirty mark
3. a gold bracelet	4. a headache
4. The girl was so **terrified** when the big gray dog jumped and snapped at her that she fainted.

1. surprised	2. frightened
3. hopeful	4. bored

5. The most outstanding thing about his wife is her **extravagance**. She always spends money wastefully on costly beautiful clothes and make-up.

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. appearance | 2. personality  |
| 3. richness   | 4. wastefulness |

6. At the first start of the game the two boys seemed to get along well, but half an hour later they began a **dispute** which led to a big fight.

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|------------|---------------|
| 1. contest | 2. quarrel    |
| 3. anger   | 4. discussion |

7. This type of work is considered to be quite hazardous. Every worker therefore gets accident insurance from the factory.

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|----------|--------------|
| 1. risky | 2. difficult |
| 3. tired | 4. modern    |

8. The store on the corner of the T-junction is an **appliance** store. It has things like electric toasters, radios, hair-dryer, etc., in the shop-window.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. a person who looks after a store    | 2. a person who helps in a store         |
| 3. something that produces electricity | 4. a thing that is used around the house |

9. You might as well forget about saving up to buy a car. The chance is that by the time you could **afford** it, there will be no petrol to put in it.

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. earn enough money    | 2. find the chance to do |
| 3. save up enough money | 4. manage to buy         |

10. Jim is a **jack-of-all-trades**, repairing his own farm machinery, maintaining his farm building, keeping his accounts, and managing his buying and selling economically in the face of rising costs, fluctuating price and uncertain markets.

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. a person who does everything by himself | 2. a manager of various businesses |
| 3. Jack can sell everything                | 4. Jim is usually called Jack      |

11. She watches "Bangkok This Morning" for a few minutes, **catching up on** what has happened.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. reading the news of | 2. taking a rest from |
| 3. finding out about   | 4. waiting            |

12. If he keeps on **harassing** them, they will call the police.

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|-------------|--------------|
| 1. amusing  | 2. ignoring  |
| 3. hurrying | 4. bothering |

13. The flood itself was terrible, but the next day we saw the **aftermath**, which was even worse.

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. resulting situation | 2. number of problems |
| 3. time before         | 4. earlier condition  |

14. His performance on the piano was so **accomplished** that his audience stood up to applaud him.

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|-------------|--------------|
| 1. handsome | 2. skilled   |
| 3. awkward  | 4. available |

15. If you want good grades on a test, it is **vital** that you study hard.

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|--------------|----------|
| 1. suggested | 2. known |
| 3. essential | 4. best  |

### E. Cause and Effect Relation Type

#### Examples:

*We can see things through a piece of glass because it is **transparent**.*

The meanings of the unknown words are not directly given, but they are shown through the cause and effect relationship of the situation. The clues which indicate the cause and effect relationship of the situation are:

Because	due to	as a result	so	therefore	thus	consequently
As such	so that	hence		accordingly		result in (V)
Cause (V)		that is why		mean(V)		

### F. Contrast Type

#### Examples:

1. Jo was **voluble** **while** his friend, Nick, was quiet.
2. Some plants die in wet soil, **but** most **thrive**.

In some sentences we will find two words with opposite meanings. If we know the meaning of one word, we will be able to guess the meaning of the other word. Clues that indicate the contrasting ideas are:

But	yet	however	although	nevertheless	though
Even though		while	whereas		on the other hand
In contrast		on the contrary	conversely		in spite of/despite

### Mini-test III

**Directions: Read the following statement and find the clue that signals the meaning of each underlined word. Write the clues and the meanings of the words in the blanks.**

1. Mary obeyed her father because she feared his **wrath**.

Clues..... Wrath is.....

2. It was bright yesterday, but today it is **gloomy**.

Clues..... Gloomy is.....

3. He is **cunning** as an old fox; don't trust him.

Clues..... Cunning is.....

4. Because of the war, the government **imposed** a new tax on the people.

Clues..... Imposed is.....

5. Knowing that the snake was under the table causes a great **commotion** in the room.

Clues..... Commotion is.....

6. While he is happy with plenty of money to spend, his mother is suffering from **poverty**.

Clues..... Poverty is.....

7. Though Sally's husband is rather dull, Sally herself is very **astute**.

Clues..... Astute is.....

8. The ship hit a big rock and began to sink, so the sailor got out the boats and **abandoned** the ship.

Clues..... Abandoned is.....

9. I am **industrious**, but today I am too lazy to work.

Clues..... Industrious is.....

**Directions: Read the following information and choose the correct meaning for each underlined word or part.**

1. He was once very popular but now his popularity is beginning to **decline**.

1. be known

2. go up

3. go down

4. change

2. As he was absolute **broke**, he could not even lend me five baht.

1. careful with money

2. showing an accident

3. without any money

4. sick

3. Although Nancy and Sally are sisters, their personalities are quite different. Nancy talks a lot whereas Sally is usually **taciturn**.

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. the same | 2. very quiet |
| 3. strong   | 4. noisy      |

4. The girl was so **terrified** when the big grey dog jumped and snapped at her that she fainted.

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. angry     | 2. frightened |
| 3. surprised | 4. mad        |

5. He writes to her **constantly**; however, she rarely answers his letter.

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. always | 2. seldom    |
| 3. never  | 4. sometimes |

6. Mice are small animals, but they are **gigantic** beside an ant.

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|----------|----------|
| 1. large | 2. funny |
| 3. small | 4. ugly  |

7. Sam was very **extravagant**. He was completely different from his sister who was always careful about money.

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|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. careful about money       | 2. different from other people   |
| 3. careful with other people | 4. careless about spending money |

8. The workers **demolished** the old houses so a condominium could be built.

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. rebuilt  | 2. looked after |
| 3. repaired | 4. destroyed    |

9. We knew that young people needed a meeting place, so we **converted** an unused house into a teen center.

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|-----------|----------------|
| 1. moved  | 2. changed     |
| 3. rented | 4. turned back |

10. Mark stood at the back of the crowd, so he couldn't get a glimpse of the King when he passed by.

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|-------------|----------|
| 1. remember | 2. greet |
| 3. see      | 4. meet  |
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