



ELA 7.3 Pathway

Study Island *Study Guide*

Context Clues



Context Clues

*Learning words can be hard. If you're not sure what a word means, it helps if you can at least know the information around the word. There are ways of figuring out what a new or unusual word means. One way is to use **context clues**.*

Using **context clues** means using the information around the word you don't know. These words help you find what it means. You can also use the information in the rest of the paragraph to help you figure out what the word means. There are a few things to watch for when looking for context clues:

- A punctuation mark, such as a comma (,) or dash (—), may help you understand how the word is being used.

example:

The DVD player had been refurbished and was now ready to be sold since the customer who bought it returned it to the store—it had not been working correctly.

Refurbished is a big word! If you don't know what it means, look at the hint after the dash. The hint is "it had not been working correctly." This shows that refurbished must mean the same thing as "fixed" since it was now ready to be sold.

Context Clues

- Key words, such as "or", and "that is" may also give you a hint that a definition is nearby.

example:

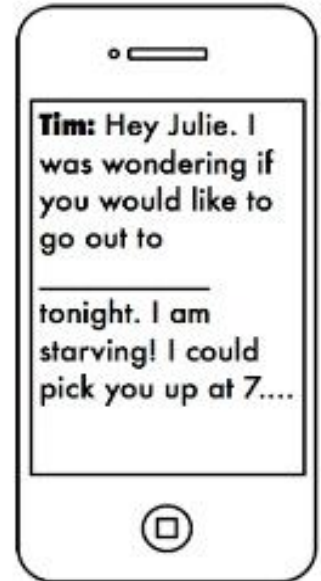
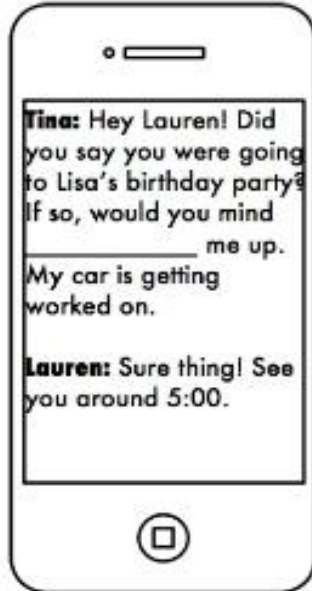
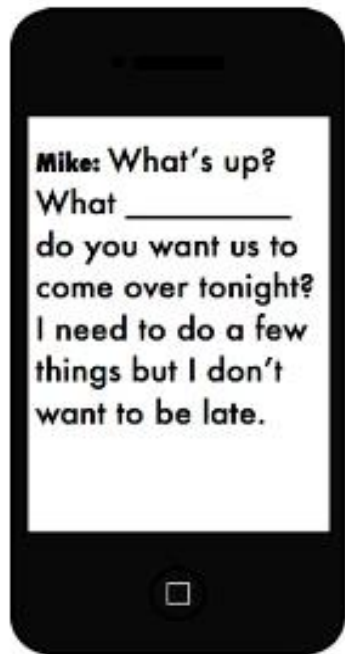
The famous basketball player had an endorsement deal with the cereal company; that is, they paid him money to talk publicly about their product.

This sentence shows that endorsement means "public support or approval."

- The intended meaning of some phrases are not the same as the literal meaning of the words. These phrases are common expressions such as "under the weather" which means that the person is feeling ill.
- Also, make sure to read the entire paragraph! Sometimes a word's definition may become clearer by reading the entire paragraph where it appears.

CONTEXT CLUES

Directions: Read each text message. Can you fill in the missing word by using context clues?



Context Clues

6. The Japanese ghost story was set in a creepy, ancient shrine. It was in disrepair, having been abandoned long ago by the original worshippers.



What is the meaning of the word shrine in the selection above?

- A. a place of worship
- B. an old factory
- C. a house on the lake
- D. a musical chamber

Context Clues

7. The contusion on the patient's arm was one of several bruises on his body.

What is the meaning of the word contusion in the selection above?

- A. brace
- B. picture
- C. tattoo
- D. injury