



Lesson 25 Using Context Clues

Given the vast number of words and phrases devoted to giving, taking, and searching for new directions, it is not surprising to encounter literature that reflects this pursuit. Phrases such as *put on the right track*, *point in the right direction*, *strike out for*, *set one's compass for*, *see which way the wind blows*, *as the crow flies*, and *straight as an arrow* are just a few of the ways people describe the road that leads to a distant place. The words in this vocabulary lesson will help you express the different directions that you encounter, whether they are in literature or in real life.

Word List

dissemble

impetuous

plague

reciprocate

dwindle

jostle

predilection

traverse

imminent

lurch

EXERCISE A Context Clues

Write the vocabulary word that best matches each clue below.

1. Medieval Europe experienced a deadly outbreak of disease often referred to as this. _____
2. You might do this zigzag action on a ski slope to help you get up or down more easily. _____
3. You might experience this action on a crowded street where people push or elbow others out of their way.

4. Something that is about to occur is often described by this adjective. _____
5. A person whose birthday you might celebrate might do this on your birthday. _____
6. A teenager in danger of being grounded for a curfew violation might do this. _____
7. The movement of a ship on water may cause you to do this if the deck rolls or pitches suddenly.

8. If your savings have decreased, you might say that the money has done this. _____
9. A person who acts in an unexpected and surprisingly spontaneous manner can be described as this.

10. If you have a preference for pizza, you have this for it. _____

EXERCISE B Usage

Circle the word in parentheses that best completes the sentence.

1. In a(n) (imminent, impetuous, reciprocating) mood, Sal decided to quit his job, sell his house and car, and move to Australia, where he thought he might pilot scuba-diving boats out to the Great Barrier Reef.
2. Zuleika dreamed that a (traverse, predilection, plague) of locusts consumed all of the crops in the Great Plains.

Vocabulary Power *continued*

3. Unable to (dissemble, dwindle, jostle) any longer, Sue admitted to writing the mystery letter.
4. To raise money for charity this summer, Karin plans to (reciprocate, traverse, lurch) the state on her bicycle.
5. After an hour's wait for the band, interest in the concert began to (dwindle, lurch, reciprocate).
6. Stan had to (lurch, jostle, dwindle) his packages around in order to get to the door.
7. As the plane hit an air pocket, the flight attendant began to (jostle, dissemble, lurch) down the aisle, trying to hold onto the trays of drinks.
8. Polly has few helpers for the tag sale because she is reluctant to (reciprocate, plague, traverse) favors.
9. Gary's (traverse, predilection, plague) for science fiction movies is well-known among his friends.
10. The old tenement was condemned because it was in (imminent, impetuous, lurching) danger of collapse.

EXERCISE C Synonyms

Circle the letter of the word that is most similar in meaning.

1. impetuous
 - a. helpful
 - b. stimulating
 - c. sarcastic
 - d. impulsive
2. plague
 - a. harass
 - b. celebrate
 - c. rotate
 - d. restore
3. dissemble
 - a. hold
 - b. slip
 - c. conceal
 - d. claim
4. reciprocate
 - a. exchange
 - b. convict
 - c. snipe
 - d. honor
5. imminent
 - a. delinquent
 - b. misshapen
 - c. resulting
 - d. impending
6. traverse
 - a. strain
 - b. retire
 - c. cross
 - d. share
7. predilection
 - a. bias
 - b. embarrassment
 - c. avoidance
 - d. disgust

EXERCISE D Multiple-Meaning Words

On a separate sheet of paper, write an adventure tale for elementary school children, featuring a conflict and the characters who resolve it. Your tale can be realistic or fantastic, but it should communicate a relevant theme to its young audience. Use at least five of the vocabulary words. However, use each vocabulary word twice (if it has more than one meaning) so the first usage conveys a different meaning from the second.

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 26 Word Usage

People have many different characteristics. Some people are flexible and optimistic; others are rigid and negative. Most successful people are willing to meet the unexpected with a positive approach. The words in this lesson deal with ways people respond to new situations.

Word List

ascertain

bizarre

tentative

ulterior

aspiration

broach

therapeutic

vanguard

awry

susceptible

EXERCISE A Usage

Read the sentences below. Then, circle the letter of the correct definition of the boldfaced word.

- Tina is so mentally and physically exhausted that a two-week vacation is a **therapeutic** necessity if she is to complete her project.
 - seemingly virtuous
 - not associated or connected with others
 - conforming to a standard
 - exhibiting healing powers
- Especially **susceptible** to compliments, Edgar can easily be diverted from his goals.
 - easily influenced or affected by
 - that produces the desired effect
 - threatening harm or evil
 - that which can be sacrificed
- Mrs. Heller pursues her **aspiration** of becoming a world-class weight lifter by working out daily with a personal trainer.
 - release from an obligation
 - strong desire or ambition
 - a secluded, little used path
 - a sudden, widespread increase
- In a **bizarre** twist, the storm turned inland.
 - indistinct
 - carefree
 - strikingly odd
 - urgent
- Before the Dantes decide about installing a sprinkler system, they must **ascertain** whether their well can handle the additional water demands.
 - avoid by cleverness
 - strengthen by supporting the weight of
 - make liable for
 - discover with certainty
- Chris made only **tentative** plans for hiking tomorrow because the temperature is supposed to be one hundred degrees.
 - not fully worked out or agreed on
 - tending to rise again
 - concerned with only the obvious
 - favoring basic change


Vocabulary Power *continued*

7. I hate to **broach** the subject, but isn't that the weekend you promised to clean the garage and the attic?
- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. show plainly | c. turn to for aid or information |
| b. bring up for discussion | d. lead into error or misconduct |
8. Something always goes **awry** with Leslie's car after she takes it to the dealer for its maintenance checkup.
- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| a. upside down | c. wrong |
| b. causing dissension | d. against custom or habit |
9. Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, and Germaine Greer made up the **vanguard** of the women's liberation movement in the 1960s and 1970s.
- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| a. case to which a rule does not apply | c. a support system for a weak group |
| b. a shared characteristic | d. leading position in a movement |
10. The director may have had an **ulterior** motive in inviting drama critics to the dress rehearsal, but his tactic obviously backfired; they all hated the play and gave it terrible reviews.
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| a. intentionally concealing so as to deceive | c. deeply sorry for having done wrong |
| b. logically connected and intelligible | d. having interruptions or gaps |

EXERCISE B Usage

If the boldfaced word is correctly used in the sentence, write *correct* above it. If not, draw a line through the word and write the correct vocabulary word above it.

- Lenny had somewhat limited **vanguards**; his goal for the next marking period was to pass all his classes.
- March was a **bizarre** month: Phoenix, Arizona, had several inches of snow while Freeport, Maine, experienced summerlike temperatures.
- Interviewing witnesses and examining physical evidence are two ways that detectives **ascertain** the facts in a case.
- Senior citizens, young children, and asthmatics are **tentative** to the heat and humidity.
- Afraid to **ascertain** the subject of the senior trip with his parents, Lyle kept postponing the discussion until it was almost too late.
- Music, especially classical, can often have a **therapeutic** effect.
- Terry has no **tentative** motive for offering a ride to voters without transportation.
- Something went **awry** with the recipe because the dough never rose.
- Yesterday, the union and the managers reached a **susceptible** agreement on the new contract.
- Egmont Arens, an industrial and packaging designer during the 1930s, was in the **vanguard** of engineers who believed that improved design could increase product sales.

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 27 Prefixes That Show Direction or Position: *ex-*, *e-*, *ab-*, *a-*, *abs-*, *ad-*

Three basic Latin prefixes and their variant spellings provide us with information regarding direction and help us understand the meaning of many different vocabulary words. Study the way the following prefixes interact with roots; then, apply what you have learned about these prefixes in the exercises that follow.

Prefix	Meaning	Root	Meaning	Word	Definition
<i>e-, ex-</i>	out, out from	<i>mittere</i>	to send	emit	to send out
		<i>cavare</i>	to hollow	excavate	to hollow out
<i>ab-, a-, abs-</i>	away, away from	<i>ducere</i>	to lead	abduct	to carry away by force
		<i>vertere</i>	to turn	avert	to turn away, prevent
		<i>esse</i>	to be	absent	not present
<i>ad-, a-</i>	to, toward	<i>vocare</i>	to call	advocate	one who argues for a cause
		<i>figere</i>	to fasten	affix	to attach

Word List

abhor	appease	avocation	enumerate
adherent	appraise	emanate	exorbitant
adverse	averse		

EXERCISE Context Clues

Choose the word from the word list that best matches each clue. On the lines provided, write your own definition of the word. Then, look the word up in a dictionary and write its definition.

- This word comes from the prefix *ad-* and the root *pais*, meaning "peace." Mothers might do this to their children so that they don't have temper tantrums in the supermarket. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
- This word is built from the prefix *ex-* and the root *orbita*, meaning "path" or "track." You might use this word to describe the price of expensive athletic shoes. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

 **Vocabulary Power** *continued*

3. This verb comes from the prefix *ab-* added to the root *horrere*, meaning “to shudder.” You might use it to describe how you feel about a bad person, place, or thing. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
4. This noun comes from the prefix *ad-* and the root *haerere*, meaning “to stick.” This kind of person could support your cause. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
5. This verb combines the prefix *e-* with the root *numerare*, meaning “number.” You might do this if you were listing all the people going on the class field trip. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
6. This noun combines the prefix *ab-* and the root *vocare*, meaning “to call.” A synonym for this word is hobby. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
7. This verb comes from the prefix *ad-* and the root *versus*, meaning “turning.” If you live in an area where winter’s temperatures are below freezing, the winter climate conditions are considered this. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
8. This verb is built from the prefix *ex-* and the root *manare*, meaning “to flow.” Loud voices and laughter might do this from a room. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
9. When the prefix *ad-* is added to the root *pretium*, meaning “price,” this verb is created. You might seek an expert to do this if you think you have something valuable to sell. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____
10. This adjective comes from the prefix *ab-* and the root *vertere*, meaning “to turn.” If you feel like this about someone or something, you are likely to avoid the person or thing. _____
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____



Lesson 28 Using Reading Skills

Learning from Context: Cause and Effect

Every time you read, you probably discover new words. Instead of stopping to look up their definitions in a dictionary, you can often figure out their meaning from the context, or the words around them. One type of context clue describes causes or effects that hint at the meanings of other words in the sentence. In the following sentence, a clue word can help you determine the meaning of *equivocal*.

Television's contribution to family life has been an equivocal one because, while it has kept members of the family from dispersing, it has not served to bring them together.

The word *because* signals that the example sentence makes a cause-and-effect statement. Using the clue word, you can figure out that television has not hurt family life, but it also has not helped it. Therefore, you can conclude that it has had an ambiguous, uncertain, or equivocal effect. Other examples of clue words and phrases that relate to cause and effect are *since, as a result, therefore, consequently, so, accordingly, and thus*.

EXERCISE

Use the clue words in the following sentences to figure out the meaning of the boldfaced words. On the lines provided, write your definition of the word, then the dictionary definition.

1. Because of Mona's **sedentary** job, she tries to exercise before and after work.
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

2. Darrell received a substantial raise after only three months at his new job as a result of being a dedicated and **assiduous** worker.
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

3. Since the owner didn't have to borrow money to get started and since business was good from the beginning, the restaurant was **solvent** immediately.
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

4. The jury felt that there were **extenuating** circumstances surrounding the crime; thus, they found the defendant not guilty.
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

5. The wide receiver clung to the football **tenaciously** because a fumble would have cost his team the game and the championship.
 My definition _____
 Dictionary definition _____

Vocabulary Power

Review: Unit 7

EXERCISE

Circle the letter of the expression that best explains the boldfaced word.

1. A person **susceptible** to flattery might be expected to _____.
 - a. ignore compliments
 - b. believe insincere praise
 - c. be calmed by reassuring comments
 - d. have everything he or she needs
2. An **impetuous** person _____.
 - a. is indispensable
 - b. is a loyal friend
 - c. changes other people's beliefs
 - d. tends to make sudden decisions
3. When you **appraise** an item, you _____.
 - a. raise it in rank or importance
 - b. estimate quality or size
 - c. blame it on someone
 - d. avoid all questions
4. Someone who **reciprocates** _____.
 - a. will return a favor
 - b. will mediate differences
 - c. will get well again
 - d. acknowledges worth
5. A detective who **ascertains** the facts will _____.
 - a. refuse to comply with them
 - b. state them clearly and directly
 - c. suppress them
 - d. discover them through detailed examination
6. If tantalizing smells **emanate** from the kitchen, _____.
 - a. they cause burning eyes
 - b. they penetrate the walls
 - c. they are counteracted by air fresheners
 - d. they flow or come forth
7. If you **jostle** someone, he or she may _____.
 - a. expect an apology
 - b. act out the incident
 - c. make a bow of greeting or respect
 - d. laugh uncontrollably
8. If your agreement with a friend's plan is **tentative**, it is _____.
 - a. planned carefully
 - b. provisional until details are complete
 - c. sure to have an important outcome
 - d. long overdue
9. A **sedentary** lifestyle can cause _____.
 - a. dilated pupils
 - b. uncertainty
 - c. heart disease
 - d. small noses
10. A _____ in spring would be considered **adverse** weather conditions.
 - a. blizzard
 - b. rain storm
 - c. dry spell
 - d. cloudy sky