

Name: _____

Date: _____

Aim: Use example/explanation context clues to determine the meaning of an unknown word.

Context Clues: Example Sentences

1. Constellations, such as The Little Dipper and The Big Dipper, can be seen in the night sky.

Using the example clue, the word **constellations** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ☐ A clouds | ☐ C moons |
| ☐ B group of stars | ☐ D lights |

2. Nutritious foods, such as fruits and vegetables, help our bodies grow.

Using the example clue, the word **nutritious** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☐ A yucky | ☐ C healthy |
| ☐ B boring | |

3. You may have an issue, such as fear of snakes, which keeps you from playing outside.

Using the example clue, the word **issue** in this sentence means

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ A fear | ☐ C problem |
| ☐ B babysitter | ☐ D permission |

4. Our country's highest politician, the president, has the job of making sure our country stays safe.

Using the example clue, the word **politician** in this sentence means

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ☐ A man | ☐ C elected person |
| ☐ B boss | ☐ D golfer |

5. Our class visited the museum on a field trip. We saw many artifacts. The museum had pottery, art, and statues from many old places.

Using the example clue, the word **artifacts** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ☐ A object | ☐ C goal |
| ☐ B point | ☐ D idea |

6. Fish, whales, and dolphins are aquatic animals.

Using the example clue, the word **aquatic** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ A land | ☐ C desert |
| ☐ B water | ☐ D dry |

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Context Clues: Example Sentences

1. Candles, flashlights, and lamps illuminate the room.

Using the example clue, the word **illuminate** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ A lower | ☐ C light up |
| ☐ B weaken | ☐ D darken |

2. Biomes on Earth include the plants and animals in the grasslands, the plants and animals in the deserts, and the plants and animals in the rain forests.

Using the example clue, the word **biomes** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ A small areas | ☐ C catastrophes |
| ☐ B prisons | ☐ D communities |

3. Animals from the equine group, such as horses and zebras, are hoofed mammals.

Using the example clue, the word **equine** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ A bird | ☐ C horse group |
| ☐ B reptile | ☐ D fish |

4. Vicissitudes, such as circumstances, developments, or journeys in life, can change a person forever.

Using the example clue, the word **vicissitudes** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ A families | ☐ C vacations |
| ☐ B life experiences | |

5. The army attempted to thwart the enemy with a new plan of attack. Before the enemy realized what was happening, their forces became confused and frustrated. The army won the battle and stopped the enemy's advance.

Using the example clue, the word **thwart** in this sentence means

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ A sanction | ☐ C allow |
| ☐ B permit | ☐ D hinder |

6. Thespians, such as Tom Cruise, George Lopez, and Hilary Duff, star in movies and television shows.

Using the example clue, the word **thespians** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A fans | ☐ C actor or performer |
| ☐ B audience members | |

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Context Clues: Example Sentences

1. In the fall, the bright foliage is a delight to see. Red, orange, and yellow leaves and vegetation paint the world for our enjoyment.

Using the example clue, the word **foliage** in this sentence means

- ☐ A rocks
☐ B leaves

- ☐ C houses
☐ D dirt

2. Debilitating illnesses include Lou Gehrig's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis.

Using the example clue, the word **debilitating** in this sentence means

- ☐ A strengthening
☐ B weakening

- ☐ C improving
☐ D energizing

3. Equestrian items would include saddles, horseshoes, and reins.

Using the example clue, the word **equestrian** in this sentence means

- ☐ A having to do with horses
☐ B having to do with the equator

- ☐ C having to do with hair
☐ D having to do with royalty

4. Biomes on Earth include the plants and animals in the grasslands, the plants and animals in the deserts, and the plants and animals in the rain forests.

Using the example clue, the word **biomes** in this sentence means

- ☐ A prisons
☐ B small areas

- ☐ C communities
☐ D catastrophes

5. Sunlight can't shine through opaque objects like brick walls and wooden doors.

Using the example clue, the word **opaque** in this sentence means

- ☐ A thin
☐ B clear

- ☐ C transparent
☐ D thick

6. Projectiles include those items that are shot forward such as a cannon shell, bullet, or rocket.

Using the example clue, the word **projectiles** in this sentence means

- ☐ A things shot forward
☐ B things broken

- ☐ C things put down
☐ D things hurt

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1. Vicissitudes, such as circumstances, developments, or journeys in life, can change a person forever.

Using the example clue, the word **vicissitudes** in this sentence means

- ☐ A families ☐ C vacations
☐ B life experiences

2. A colossus, such as the Statue of Liberty, can be seen for miles around.

Using the example clue, the word **colossus** in this sentence means

- ☐ A huge statue ☐ C torch
☐ B airplane ☐ D woman

3. Being eccentric, such as having pink or blue hair, is sure to get you attention, but it may not be the kind you want.

Using the example clue, the word **eccentric** in this sentence means

- ☐ A rebellious ☐ C not ordinary
☐ B rural ☐ D calm

4. John was meticulous in his work as an artist. He took great pains to be detailed, precise, and thorough with all of his paintings.

Using the example clue, the word **meticulous** in this sentence means

- ☐ A casual ☐ C messy
☐ B sloppy ☐ D careful

5. The army attempted to thwart the enemy with a new plan of attack. Before the enemy realized what was happening, their forces became confused and frustrated. The army won the battle and stopped the enemy's advance.

Using the example clue, the word **thwart** in this sentence means

- ☐ A allow ☐ C permit
☐ B sanction ☐ D hinder

6. A sleuth, such as Sherlock Holmes, can be very helpful in solving crimes.

Using the example clue, the word **sleuth** in this sentence means

- ☐ A man ☐ C detective
☐ B pilot ☐ D senior citizen

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Context Clues: Example Sentences

1. An edifice, such as the Empire State Building, can take years to build.

Using the example clue, the word **edifice** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ☐ A coal mine | ☐ C large building |
| ☐ B steel | ☐ D concrete wall |

2. Zack was a good at many sports. He excelled in swimming, running, horsemanship, fencing, and target shooting. He decided to compete in the pentathlon rather than having to choose one of the events.

Using the example clue, the word **pentathlon** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A competition with eight events | ☐ C competition with ten events |
| ☐ B competition with two events | ☐ D competition with five events |

3. Marjoram, such as lavender, can be very soothing and relaxing.

Using the example clue, the word **marjoram** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ A aromatic herb | ☐ C candle |
| ☐ B crayon | ☐ D flower |

4. Animals from the equine group, such as horses and zebras, are hoofed mammals.

Using the example clue, the word **equine** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☐ A horse group | ☐ C reptile |
| ☐ B fish | ☐ D bird |

5. Projectiles include those items that are shot forward such as a cannon shell, bullet, or rocket.

Using the example clue, the word **projectiles** in this sentence means

- | | |
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| ☐ A things shot forward | ☐ C things broken |
| ☐ B things hurt | ☐ D things put down |

6. Candles, flashlights, and lamps illuminate the room.

Using the example clue, the word **illuminate** in this sentence means

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ☐ A light up | ☐ C lower |
| ☐ B weaken | ☐ D darken |

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Context Clues: Example Sentences

1. The lawyer had tangible evidence, such as a hammer, a car, and keys, to show that the person stole the car.

Using the example clue, the word **tangible** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A false | ☐ C pretend |
| ☐ B real or visible | ☐ D imaginary |

2. Elliptical shapes, such as an oval or an egg, have rounded sides.

Using the example clue, the word **elliptical** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ A straight | ☐ C oval |
| ☐ B unbent | ☐ D flat |

3. The dark clouds were a caveat of the coming storm. It was not the only warning we received. The town tornado alarm sounded soon after and gave us enough notice to seek shelter.

Using the example clue, the word **caveat** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A warning | ☐ C withdrawal |
| ☐ B keep | ☐ D celebration |

4. The emergency room doctors see patients with trauma, such as a broken bone, every night.

Using the example clue, the word **trauma** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ A plans | ☐ C goals |
| ☐ B headaches | ☐ D injury |

5. Vicissitudes, such as circumstances, developments, or journeys in life, can change a person forever.

Using the example clue, the word **vicissitudes** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A vacations | ☐ C life experiences |
| ☐ B families | |

6. Candles, flashlights, and lamps illuminate the room.

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|---|---------------------------------------|
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Context Clues: Explanations

1. The kitten was so fascinated with the ball of yarn that she played with it for hours.

Using the explanation clue, the word **fascinated** in this sentence means

☐ A angered

☐ C hurt

☐ B attracted

☐ D tired

2. Matt has such a kind disposition that he always helps people.

Using the explanation clue, the word **disposition** in this sentence means

☐ A show-off

☐ C enemy

☐ B attitude or way

☐ D doctor

3. She winced in pain when the rock fell on her foot.

Using the explanation clue, the word **wincing** in this sentence means

☐ A jumped

☐ C flinched

☐ B screamed

☐ D cried

4. She took an elixir, such as cough medicine, to help her feel better.

Using the explanation clue, the word **elixir** in this sentence means

☐ A water

☐ C bedtime

☐ B medicine

☐ D sandwich

5. John Public committed an offense when he robbed the bank.

Using the explanation clue, the word **offense** in this sentence means

☐ A money

☐ C cash

☐ B murder

☐ D crime

6. The tripod has 3 legs and holds a camera.

Using the explanation clue, the word **tripod** in this sentence means

☐ A stool

☐ C 3 legged stand

☐ B table

☐ D chair

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Context Clues: Explanations

1. The voters were so upset about the outcome of the election that a skirmish broke out and the police had to break it up.

Using the explanation clue, the word **skirmish** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A hurricane | ☐ C creature |
| ☐ B sunshine | ☐ D fight |

2. Improving on the assembly line, Henry Ford was able to manufacture his automobiles efficiently. He predominated in the industry for many years.

Using the explanation clue, the word **predominated** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A led | ☐ C fell behind |
| ☐ B followed | ☐ D charted |

3. Mom and Dad used fans to ventilate the attic.

Using the explanation clue, the word **ventilate** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A create an air flow | ☐ C close |
| ☐ B paint | ☐ D tighten |

4. No repairs were needed for the old car because it was in impeccable condition.

Using the explanation clue, the word **impeccable** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A bad | ☐ C imperfect |
| ☐ B perfect | ☐ D horrible |

5. After the driver lost control of her automobile, the vehicle careened off the road. It went down a bank and slammed into a tree.

Using the explanation clue, the word **careened** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ A straightened | ☐ C tidied |
| ☐ B zigzagged | ☐ D arranged |

6. Dr. Smith is an entomologist, or an expert on insects.

Using the explanation clue, the word **entomologist** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A expert on insects | ☐ C tall person |
| ☐ B expert on storage | ☐ D fearful person |

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Context Clues: Explanations

1. We heard the tabor, or small drum, sound throughout the forest.

Using the explanation clue, the word **tabor** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ☐ A style | ☐ C small drum |
| ☐ B flute | ☐ D textile |

2. Our new puppy was so rambunctious; all she wanted to do was run in circles around the house.

Using the explanation clue, the word **rambunctious** in this sentence means

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ A calm | ☐ C laid-back |
| ☐ B energetic | ☐ D quiet |

3. We could tell by the rotten smell, that something putrid was in our trash can.

Using the explanation clue, the word **putrid** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ☐ A ample | ☐ C alive |
| ☐ B rotten | ☐ D appealing |

4. The altruistic volunteer put her life on hold to help the hurricane victims.

Using the explanation clue, the word **altruistic** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ A selfish | ☐ C coldhearted |
| ☐ B greedy | ☐ D unselfish |

5. Dr. Smith is an entomologist, or an expert on insects.

Using the explanation clue, the word **entomologist** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ A tall person | ☐ C expert on storage |
| ☐ B fearful person | ☐ D expert on insects |

6. The artist worked meticulously on the sculpture of the bear to make it look as realistic as possible.

Using the explanation clue, the word **meticulously** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ☐ A quickly | ☐ C carelessly |
| ☐ B carefully or precisely | ☐ D sloppily |

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Context Clues: Explanations

1. The insidious burglar was able to sneak into the house without being heard or seen.

Using the explanation clue, the word **insidious** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ A sneaky | ☐ C loud |
| ☐ B strong | ☐ D clumsy |

2. The tornado annihilated the whole town to the point that nothing was left standing.

Using the explanation clue, the word **annihilated** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A created | ☐ C destroyed |
| ☐ B saved | ☐ D constructed |

3. I had to stop and think about the unfathomable quote of the day.

Using the explanation clue, the word **unfathomable** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ A clear | ☐ C simple |
| ☐ B easy | ☐ D deep or profound |

4. The police arrived to confiscate, or seize, the stolen property of the criminal.

Using the explanation clue, the word **confiscate** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ A give away | ☐ C seize |
| ☐ B donate | ☐ D lose |

5. The woman threw on her frock and ran outside, forgetting that she needed a belt around her dress.

Using the explanation clue, the word **frock** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A arch | ☐ C socks |
| ☐ B woman's dress | ☐ D disregard |

6. In Great Britain, the police officer was called a constable.

Using the explanation clue, the word **constable** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A poor person | ☐ C jockey |
| ☐ B criminal | ☐ D policeman |

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1. The altruistic volunteer put her life on hold to help the hurricane victims.

Using the explanation clue, the word **altruistic** in this sentence means

☐ A greedy

☐ C unselfish

☐ B selfish

☐ D coldhearted

2. Our new puppy was so rambunctious; all she wanted to do was run in circles around the house.

Using the explanation clue, the word **rambunctious** in this sentence means

☐ A energetic

☐ C laid-back

☐ B calm

☐ D quiet

3. Grandmother was punctilious; that is, she was very strict about her grandchildren following good manners.

Using the explanation clue, the word **punctilious** in this sentence means

☐ A careless

☐ C strict in observing good manners

☐ B weak

☐ D bad-mannered

4. The plan to rebuild the tower was feasible, and everyone thought it was workable.

Using the explanation clue, the word **feasible** in this sentence means

☐ A destroyed

☐ C incomplete

☐ B basic

☐ D workable

5. The criminal glanced furtively at the police officer to make sure he had not been seen.

Using the explanation clue, the word **furtively** in this sentence means

☐ A slowly

☐ C loudly

☐ B openly

☐ D quickly and secretly

6. The pile of work before Grant was insurmountable because there wasn't enough time to get it all done.

Using the explanation clue, the word **insurmountable** in this sentence means

☐ A can't be overcome

☐ C super

☐ B peaceful

☐ D easy

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Context Clues: Explanations

1. Throngs of people shopped at the mall the week before Christmas.

Using the explanation clue, the word **throngs** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ A little number | ☐ C few |
| ☐ B no one | ☐ D crowds |

2. We took a pair of shoes to the cobbler, so he could fix them for us.

Using the explanation clue, the word **cobbler** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A convert | ☐ C stones |
| ☐ B shield | ☐ D shoe mender |

3. The giant ice cream sundae was so scrumptious that I ate the entire thing.

Using the explanation clue, the word **scrumptious** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ A yucky | ☐ C delicious |
| ☐ B awful | ☐ D large |

4. The string was so taut that you could not stretch it any more without breaking it.

Using the explanation clue, the word **taut** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ A light | ☐ C stretched tightly |
| ☐ B poor | ☐ D fragile |

5. The pile of work before Grant was insurmountable because there wasn't enough time to get it all done.

Using the explanation clue, the word **insurmountable** in this sentence means

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A peaceful | ☐ C super |
| ☐ B easy | ☐ D can't be overcome |

6. Improving on the assembly line, Henry Ford was able to manufacture his automobiles efficiently. He predominated in the industry for many years.

Using the explanation clue, the word **predominated** in this sentence means

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ A followed | ☐ C charted |
| ☐ B fell behind | ☐ D led |