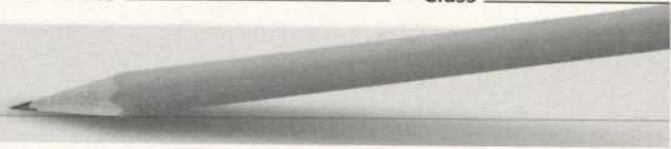




Vocabulary Power



Lesson 4 Using Reading Skills

Learning from Context: Definitions

The context of a word is the sentence or paragraph in which it appears. You can use clues from the context to discover the meaning of an unknown word. Look for key words that define a word.

EXERCISE A

Use the context to find the meaning of the boldfaced word. First, underline key words in the sentence that help you define the vocabulary word. Then, write the word's probable meaning.

1. I have always considered Tony Gwynn to be the **epitome** of a great baseball hitter and a true gentleman.
a typical or ideal example
2. Sarah is always **jovial**; in fact, she is the most cheerful person I know.
happy, jolly, good-natured
3. Richard's dog had grown **portly** because of lack of exercise and a diet of table scraps.
chubby
4. The **indigent** person lacked housing, money, and food.
poor
5. This hotel room will **suffice**; it has everything we might need during our stay.
meets needs
6. The man raced after the bus, his hair **disheveled** and his shirt untucked.
messed up
7. The burning sun increased our **torpor** so much that we could barely move.
laziness, sluggishness
8. The judge showed **clemency** to the convicted man because she felt sympathy for him.
mercy
9. Did Mikayla drop the class of her own **volition**, or was she coerced?
will, conscious choice, free choice
10. To **affront** someone on the street like that is dangerous.
insult

EXERCISE B

Double-check your definition in a dictionary. Then, use each word in a sentence of your own. Write on a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.

Students' sentences should demonstrate the correct use of each word.