

Word Detective Strategies

Name of Strategy	How We Use It
Using Context Clues	<p>Look at the other words and punctuation around the unknown word to help you figure out its meaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reread the sentences before and after the unknown word. What words around the unknown word do you know? • Are there punctuation clues like commas, dashes, or parentheses to indicate that the author is defining the word?
Recalling Background Knowledge	<p>Think about what you already know about this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have you read about this topic? • Have you had personal experiences with this topic or idea? What are they? • What do you know about the ideas being presented in this sentence?
Searching the Glossary	<p>Use a Glossary in the text to confirm or clarify the definition of the unknown word.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the word in the back of the text? • Is the word in bold on the page with the definition on the side of the page? • Is the word highlighted in the text? • Is the word in a different color font?