

Name:

Clarifying with context clues



When there are new words or phrases, you try to **clarify**. **Context clues** can help you figure out new words. Context clues are pieces of information in the passage that tell what the new word might mean.

Context clues that **define**

Sometimes, the passage gives you a definition of the new word or phrase. You can look for this kind of definition after a comma or dash, in the same sentence as the new word, like this context clue for **equalizer**:

- The Jamaican soccer team scored an **equalizer**, a game tying goal, just minutes after Canada scored.

Is the meaning of equalizer clear?

Context clues that **give a hint**

Other times, context clues give you just a hint. The hint comes in the sentences surrounding the new word. See if you can figure out **lackluster** in this section.

- Canada player Julian de Guzman spoke about his team's **lackluster** performance. "This was an important win for us. We could have made the World Cup with a win. But we didn't pull it off. We tied a weaker team."

Lackluster might mean

Context clues that **give an example**

Other times, the next sentence gives you an example, like this context clue for **mishandle**:

- On a Jamaica corner kick, Canada's goalie **mishandled** the ball. "I knocked it into our own net," he explained.

Mishandled might mean

Context clues with **base words**

Sometimes the best clue is in the word, not in the sentences around the challenge word. Spotting a base word you know can clarify the challenge word. Try finding the base word to figure out **counterattack**.

- Canada tried to **counterattack** after Jamaica tied the game

Counterattack might mean

Using context clues

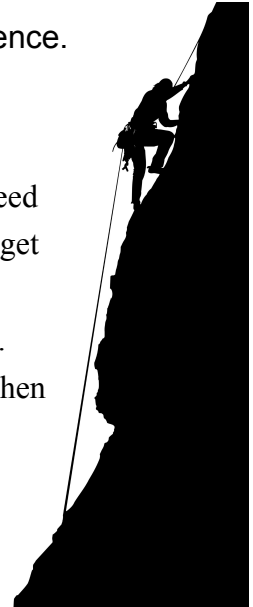
Climbing the tallest peaks

Underline the words in the passage that are new to you. Then clarify the new words by using context clues.

Remember, context clues may give a definition in the same sentence. You may also find clues to meaning in the next sentence.



Mountain climbers are courageous people. They like to push themselves to the limit. For the tallest mountains, climbers need special gear. A climber's extremities, the hands and feet, can get frozen in the cold. Climbers wear heavy mitts and socks. Climbers also need supportive gear like ropes and carabiners. These are metal loops that can lock tight and hold the rope when a climber slips. Because the air is thin above 25,000 feet, climbers carry masks and oxygen. Climbing the highest mountains is still treacherous. About 300 people have died trying to climb Mount Everest.



Copy the four new words you found. Write your best guess about the meaning of each word and check whether you are sure about the meaning.

1.

Are you sure of the meaning? Yes No

2.

Are you sure of the meaning? Yes No

3.

Are you sure of the meaning? Yes No

4.

Are you sure of the meaning? Yes No

Would you want to climb one of the tallest peaks like Everest? Give reasons for your answer.
