

Context Clues — Completed Example

Unknown word: reluctant · Use the sentence and surrounding details, test a meaning, then confirm only if needed.

CONTEXT

Aria was reluctant to volunteer first. She kept her hand on the desk while several classmates raised theirs, and she whispered that she wanted to hear one example before trying. After Noah presented, Aria finally lifted her hand.

CLUE 1

She does not raise her hand while others volunteer.

CLUE 2

She wants to hear an example before trying.

CLUE 3

She volunteers only after someone else presents.

PREDICTED MEANING

Reluctant probably means hesitant or not yet willing to act.

SUBSTITUTION TEST

"Aria was hesitant to volunteer first." The replacement fits the grammar and matches the later details about waiting before acting.

CONFIRM / REVISE

Confirmed meaning: hesitant; not immediately willing. The context is strong enough to infer the general meaning. A dictionary could refine the exact sense, but the surrounding sentences already rule out meanings such as excited, confused, or unable.