

Context Clues Graphic Organizer

Use the sentence and surrounding clues to predict a word meaning, then test whether the meaning fits.

Name: _____

Date: _____

UNKNOWN WORD

SENTENCE + SURROUNDING CONTEXT

CLUE 1

definition / restatement

CLUE 2

example / contrast

CLUE 3

word part / logic

MY PREDICTED MEANING

SUBSTITUTE & TEST

Put your meaning into the sentence. Does the sentence still make sense?

CONFIRM / REVISE

Use a dictionary or teacher help if the context is not strong enough.

Context Clues — Guided

GUIDED VERSION

Name: _____ Date: _____

UNKNOWN WORD

Which word or phrase are you figuring out?

CONTEXT

Copy enough of the sentence or paragraph.

USEFUL CLUES

Definitions, examples, contrasts, synonyms, word parts...

INFERRED MEANING

What meaning fits this sentence?

VERIFY

Substitute it back in. Does the sentence still make sense?

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.