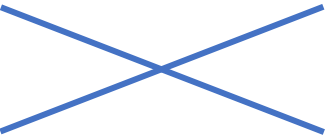


Context is how we know books can be found in libraries and cold cuts can be found in delis. It's also how we know words can be understood, even if we lack their definition. They are essential tools for writers, readers, and pretty much anybody interested in making sense of the world. Context clues are a small, but integral part of critical reasoning. They can suggest meaning, conceal meaning, or explain meaning. **Denotation** is the **Dictionary** definition of the word, but **Connotation** considers the **Context** in which it is used.

	Type	Definition	Example Signal Words or Punctuation	Sample Sentence	My Thoughts
Context Clues	Definition	The writer provides the meaning of the word in the sentence.	is, are, means, meaning, refers to, defined	Mr. Wilson is an affable principal, meaning he is easy to approach and always friendly.	
	Appositive	Specific definition set off by comma.	or, which *set off by commas	Mr. Wilson, the principal, is affable and good-natured.	
	Synonym	A word close in meaning to the unfamiliar word is given in the sentence.	also, as, identical, like, likewise, resembling, same, similarly, too, that is *may have commas, dashes, or parentheses	Mr. Wilson is quite affable, much like Mrs. Smith. Do you remember how kind she was?	
	Antonym	A word opposite in meaning is used in the sentence.	but, however, contrast, instead of, on the other hand, though, unlike, yet, not	Our new principal is cranky and unapproachable, unlike Mr. Wilson who was so affable.	
	Example	The writer lists items that illustrate the meaning of the word.	for example, for instance, including, like, such as, especially like, including	Mr. Wilson is an affable principal. He knows everybody's name and makes it easy to talk to him.	
	Common Sense	The writer provides some nonspecific clues to the meaning of the word, sometimes spread over several sentences.		You don't need to worry about talking to Mr. Wilson. He is an affable principal.	