

Context Clues

for
Word
Wisdom

The Olympic Games:

An Amazing Jump

The motto of the Olympic Games is a Latin phrase that means "Faster, Higher, Stronger." The motto fits because Olympic athletes often set records as they compete. One Olympic athlete set a new record with an amazing jump.



Every four years, the world's best athletes gather for the summer Olympic Games. The track-and-field events include the 100-meter dash. The winner of this **sprint** is called the fastest man or woman in the world. The winner of another event, the **marathon**, runs more than 26 miles in just over two hours. What a test of **endurance**! Some track-and-field events can make viewers gasp in awe. One of them is the long jump.

The long jump only looks simple. The athlete begins at one end of a runway and **accelerates** smoothly, step by step. Reaching top speed at the takeoff board, the athlete pushes off with one foot and jumps into a sandy pit. Long jumpers need just the right speed and number of steps. They must have the proper foot position and **traction**, or grip, on the takeoff board. And they must control leg, arm, and body movements to avoid **flailing** uselessly and losing balance in the air.

In 1968, the American long jumper Bob Beamon was competing in the Olympic Games in Mexico City. He was not expected to win the event because his jumps were sometimes too short. Experts thought that even if he did his best, he would still **trail** the world-record holders competing against him. At the time, the record for the long jump was just under 27 feet, 5 inches.

Beamon's turn came. He **hurtled** down the runway like a horse at full gallop. He stepped on the takeoff board and leaped. He landed almost beyond the sand pit! The awestruck crowd roared. Beamon's jump was measured at 29 feet, 2½ inches. He had broken the world record by nearly two feet! He almost couldn't believe what he had done and **collapsed** on the ground.

Bob Beamon **retained** the record for 23 years. His Olympic jump has been called one of the greatest athletic achievements ever.


Context Clues Strategy

Look for How Something Is Done


EXAMPLE: The gymnast *catapulted* powerfully into the air.

CLUE: The word *powerfully* describes the word *catapulted*. It tells how catapulting is done.


Here are the steps for using this context clues strategy to figure out the meaning of *accelerates*.

 **Read** the sentence with the unknown word and some of the sentences around it.

The athlete begins at one end of a runway and accelerates smoothly, step by step. Reaching top speed at the takeoff board, the athlete pushes off with one foot and jumps into a sandy pit.

 **Look** for context clues. Do any words describe How Something Is Done?


The words *smoothly* and *step by step* are clues that tell how accelerating is done.

 **Think** about the context clues and other information you may already know.

Cars accelerate until they reach top speed.

 **Predict** a meaning for the word.

The word *accelerates* probably means “goes faster.”

 **Check** your Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning. Decide which meaning fits the context.

Accelerates means “goes faster.”



Unlock the Meanings

Practice the Strategy The word below is from the article about Bob Beamon on page 28. Use the context clues strategy on page 29 to figure out the meaning of the word.

flailing



Read the sentence that includes the word *flailing* and some of the sentences around it.



Look for context clues to the word's meaning. Do any words describe How Something Is Done?



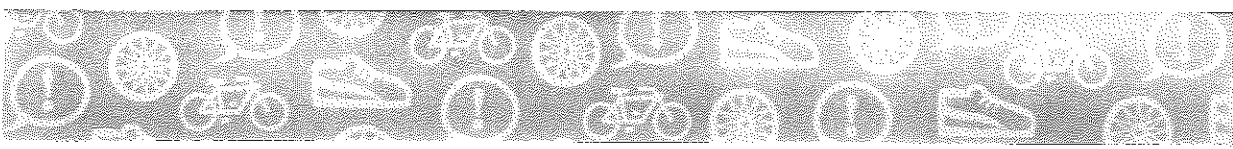
Think about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?



Predict a meaning for the word *flailing*.



Check the Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning of *flail*. Write the dictionary meaning.



- WORD LIST**
- sprint _____
 - marathon _____
 - endurance _____
 - ✓ accelerate _____
 - traction _____
 - ✓ flail _____
 - trail _____
 - hurtle _____
 - collapse _____
 - retain _____

Use Context Clues You have been introduced to two vocabulary words from the article about the amazing long jump. Those words are checked off in the Word List. Under "Vocabulary Word" below, write the other eight words from the Word List. Use context clues to predict a meaning for each word under "Your Prediction." Then check the meanings in the Word Wisdom Dictionary. Write the definition under "Dictionary Says."

Vocabulary Word	Your Prediction	Dictionary Says
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

sprint
marathon
endurance
accelerate
traction
flail
trail
hurtle
collapse
retain

Find the Synonyms Write the word from the Word List that is a synonym for the boldfaced word.

- 1 A poorly built bridge may **tumble**. _____
- 2 The swimmer began to **thrash**. _____
- 3 The shortest footrace is the **dash**. _____
- 4 The grip of these tires is **strong**. _____
- 5 I'm late. Make the car **quicken**. _____

Use the Words Correctly in Writing Rewrite each sentence to include the word in parentheses.

- 6 My team scored, so it will hold onto its lead. (retain)

- 7 All the runners lag behind the three leaders. (trail)

- 8 Trains speed noisily through the tunnel. (hurtle)

- 9 Running a race that is just over 26 miles requires months of training. (marathon)

- 10 Athletes develop their ability to keep going. (endurance)

Apply What You've Learned

Explain the Differences Answer the questions.

- 1** Why would you **hurtle**, not jog, if you wanted to win a race?

- 2** What's different about a car that **accelerates** and one that stops?

- 3** Would you rather have your favorite team **trail** or **tie**?

- 4** Is it better for dancers to **flail** their arms or to swing them?

- 5** What is the difference between a **marathon** and a **sprint**?

Tell Why Complete each sentence.

- 6** Soccer players need **endurance** _____
- 7** A person may **collapse** on a hot day _____
- 8** Fans retain hope when their team is losing _____

- 9** Running shoes have good **traction** _____
- 10** A **sprint** may last a few seconds because _____



Write It! Imagine running a marathon. Write a paragraph to describe the experience. Use as many vocabulary words from Part 1 as you can.

Latin Roots

For
Word
Wisdom

Horse Heroes:

The Sport of Horse Racing

There are some people who think of racehorses as professional athletes—they are strong, powerful, and well trained. But what is so interesting about this popular sport?

Have you ever watched a horse race? If you have, you know that horse racing **attracts** many fans. Thousands of people attend the major horse races. Even more people watch them on TV. In fact, horse racing is one of the oldest sports in history.

Most of the major races take place among thoroughbred horses. A thoroughbred is a breed of horse. They are usually strong, fast, and **agile** animals. A horse's parents and grandparents are very important. If a horse's parent was a good racer, then that horse will likely be a good racer, too. Some racehorses are even **extracted** from the sport in order for them to breed new racehorses.

At a race, horses are led into their own stalls, or enclosed areas. They are **detained** here until the race begins. The stall is just big enough for the horse to fit. It is important to keep the horse calm


in the stall. If it becomes **agitated**, the horse might have a difficult start to the race. At the front of each stall is a gate where the horses line up. When the official **activates** a button, the gates open. The horses burst onto the track.


Some races, such as the famous Kentucky Derby, can **contain** twenty horses. Each horse has a jockey, or rider. He or she helps the horse **maintain** a certain speed during the race. A jockey helps the horse **react** to the movement of the other horses. Sometimes a pack of several horses will **contract** and run very near each other. This is common when horses run around bends in the track. A jockey must always guide the horse properly.


Winners of the major races become sports heroes. Horse racing in the U.S. has an honor called the Triple Crown. A horse that wins the Triple Crown has won the three major horse races—the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes—in the same year. A few Triple Crown winners are the horses Secretariat, Citation, and War Admiral. Among race fans, these three horses are remembered as heroes.


Practice the **Context Clues Strategy** Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 34. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 29 to figure out the meaning of this word.


contract

 **Read** the sentence that uses the word *contract*. Read some of the sentences around the word.

 **Look** for context clues. Do any words describe How Something Is Done?

 **Think** about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?

 **Predict** a meaning for the word *contract*.

 **Check** your Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning of the word *contract*. Which meaning for *contract* fits the context?

Unlock the Meanings

The main part of most English words is called the root. In this lesson you will learn three Latin roots. Each one has something to do with movement.

Latin Root: act, agi
 meaning: to act, to do
 English word: *actor*
 meaning: a person who acts

Latin Root: tract
 meaning: to pull, to draw
 English word: *traction*
 meaning: the grip needed to pull an object

Latin Root: ten, tin, tain
 meaning: to hold
 English word: *retain*
 meaning: to keep or hold

WORD LIST

- attract
- agile
- extract
- detain
- agitate
- activate
- contain
- maintain
- react
- contract

Sort by Roots Find these roots in the words from the Word List on this page. Then write each word in the correct column. Think of other words you know that come from the same Latin roots. Write each one in the correct column.

Movement

Latin Root:
act, agi

Latin Root:
tract

Latin Root:
ten, tin, tain

Prefix
ad-, at-
de-

Meaning
toward, to
from

Example

at- (toward) + tract (pull) = attract

Use Roots and Prefixes Circle any roots and prefixes you find in each boldfaced word. Use context clues, roots, and prefixes to write the meaning of each word. Check your definitions in the dictionary.

1 The great beauty of the Grand Canyon **attracts** many tourists.

2 After much practice, the once clumsy boy became an **agile** gymnast.

3 Heavy traffic on the freeway **detained** us for nearly an hour.

4 Since some foods **contract** when cold, they become smaller if frozen.

5 A baby might **react** to a loud noise, such as thunder, by crying.

6 You can **maintain** your garden by watering and weeding it regularly.

7 Dad used pointy tweezers to **extract** the splinter from my finger.

8 The robot won't move until you **activate** it by turning the switch.

9 Newspapers often **contain** articles about government.

10 Strong wind can **agitate** the water in a lake.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

attract

agile

extract

detain

agitate

activate

contain

maintain

react

contract

Choose the Correct Meaning For each phrase below, circle the letter of the item that gives the best meaning for the boldfaced word.

- 1** to maintain good grades in school
- a. keep up
 - b. try to get
 - c. want to earn

- 2** reacted to an angry comment
- a. added
 - b. connected
 - c. responded

- 3** always attracts dust
- a. gives off
 - b. creates
 - c. pulls toward itself

- 4** contains many ingredients
- a. mixes together
 - b. has in it
 - c. locates

- 5** was detained at the airport
- a. delayed
 - b. confused
 - c. sleeping

- 6** will activate the rocket launch
- a. quickly stop
 - b. set in motion
 - c. command

Find the Antonyms Write the word from the Word List that is opposite in meaning to each word or phrase below.

7 calm down _____

8 insert _____

9 clumsy _____

10 expand _____

Apply What You've Learned

Demonstrate Word Knowledge Use what you have learned about the boldfaced words to answer the questions.

1 What are some valuable things that can be extracted from the earth?

2 If you wanted to attract attention, what could you do?

3 How might a person react to a fire alarm?

4 What are some ways you can maintain a bicycle?

5 When might a teacher become agitated?

Check the Meaning Decide whether the boldfaced word has been used correctly. Write **C** for **Correct** or **I** for **Incorrect**.

___ **6** Aunt Flora was **detained** and arrived home late.

___ **7** You can **contract** her at home by calling her on the phone.

___ **8** The **agile** vase had many chips and cracks.

___ **9** My suitcase **contains** everything I will need for vacation.

___ **10** A thief will **activate** the alarm if he opens the door.



Speak It! Create a script for a radio sports report. Describe an exciting game, or report on an interview with a star player. Use as many vocabulary words from Part 2 as you can.

Reference Skills

A Mountain's Challenge:

High Climbing

You have probably heard of **Mount Everest**. This mountain is famous for how difficult it is to climb. But why climb mountains in the first place? Many people do it for the challenge.

Mountain climbing is a dangerous sport. The higher one climbs, the more dangerous it becomes. Before one **embarks** on such a journey, he or she must know the basics in climbing and survival skills.

To **navigate** the safest way to the top of a mountain, climbers **exert** an incredible amount of physical effort. On Mount Everest and other popular mountains, there are often several base camps set up to offer climbers a break. Base camps are not found very high up a mountain, so it is wise for climbers to **recline**, rest, and prepare their bodies for the remainder of the climb.

Climbers run into many challenges as they **maneuver** their way up a mountain. They might even encounter dangerous wildlife or have to **wade** across a stream that wets their clothes. They might find themselves **suspended** on the face of a steep rock.


Weather changes are another challenge for mountain climbers. The higher a climber goes, the more difficult the weather is to predict. The temperatures get colder, and the weather gets harsher. There is a danger of frostbite and freezing. Avalanches may also occur. Some climbers carry two-way radios. They use these to **transmit** information to each other or to call for help. They may also warn other climbers to take an alternate route.


Physical problems also challenge climbers. As climbers go higher up a mountain, the air gets thinner. Climbers might find it difficult to breathe. They often carry a supply of canned oxygen.


Climbers must remember that even if they reach the summit, they still have to climb back down the mountain. It might be easy to **dismount** a ladder, but climbing down a mountain takes time and energy. Sometimes a climber will **transfer** some of their gear to another climber before heading back down. This makes their load lighter, giving the climber more energy, although much of the energy comes from the thrill of overcoming the mountain's tough challenge!


Practice the Context Clues Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 40. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 29 to figure out the meaning of this word.


dismount

 **Read** the sentence that uses the word *dismount* and some of the sentences around the word.

 **Look** for context clues. Do any words describe **How Something Is Done?**

 **Think** about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?

 **Predict** a meaning for the word *dismount*.

 **Check** your Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning of the word *dismount*. Write the definition here.

Unlock the Meanings

Guide Words Dictionaries provide **guide words** to help you find the entry word you're looking for. Guide words appear at the top of each page. They are the first and the last entry words on that page.

Other entries come alphabetically between the two guide words. By looking at the guide words you can quickly decide if the word you want is on that page.

Use Guide Words Write the word from the Word List on page 43 that would be found on the same dictionary page as each set of guide words below. If none of the words would be on the page, write **none**.

1 solid / temperature _____

2 weekend / yellow _____

3 diamond / display _____

4 quiet / remember _____

5 mechanic / nimble _____

6 transfix / tumble _____

7 dominate / elude _____

8 magnify / molecule _____

9 velocity / wheel _____

10 domain / elate _____



**Find
the
Meaning**

1. Use context clues.
2. Look for a familiar root, prefix, or suffix.
3. If the context or a word part doesn't help, check the dictionary.

Define the Words Follow the steps above to write the meaning of each boldfaced word. Write 1, 2, or 3 to show which steps you used.

WORD LIST

embark

navigate

exert

recline

maneuver

wade

suspend

transmit

dismount

transfer

- 1 After I **dismounted** my horse, I led her to the barn.

- 2 It is easy to **wade** here because the water is shallow.

- 3 Mrs. Liang **maneuvered** her skis around rocks and trees.

- 4 At night, sailors can use the stars to help **navigate** their ships.

- 5 The electrician tried to **suspend** the light from the ceiling.

- 6 Our class **embarked** on a new project to help homeless families.

- 7 Mr. Ortiz uses e-mail to **transmit** messages to his students.

- 8 The workers had to **exert** themselves to move the boulder.

- 9 After standing all day, Joe was happy to **recline** on the couch.

- 10 To get downtown, I had to **transfer** to a second bus.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

embark

navigate

exert

recline

maneuver

wade

suspend

transmit

dismount

transfer

Revise the Sentences Rewrite each sentence. Replace the underlined words with a word from the Word List. You may need to add an ending to the word you choose.

1 Josh was so tired that he lay down in the hammock.

2 Meg could carefully move her skateboard around corners.

3 Cobwebs were hanging down from the ceiling.

4 Coach Rivers taught us how to get off the parallel bars.

5 On Monday, I will move from Frost School to a new one.

Choose the Correct Word Write the word from the Word List that completes each sentence.

6 It will take days to _____ through the stack of papers on his desk.

7 My parents will _____ on a trip.

8 I know that if I _____ myself, I can learn to play the flute.

9 The airline pilot used instruments to _____ the plane.

10 She hired a trucking company to _____ the heavy boxes.



Apply What You've Learned

Relate the Meanings Answer the questions.

1 When have you had to exert yourself?

2 What would you need to suspend a picture on a wall?

3 Where would you be after dismounting a horse?

4 If a chair can recline, what can it do?

5 How would you transmit a note to your teacher?

Choose the Correct Answer Circle the best answer.

6 Which is *not* something you would wade through?

- a. the newspaper b. a brook c. a tree

7 Sailors who navigate ships could use

- a. a clock b. fuel c. a compass

8 A driver would maneuver a car by

- a. steering it b. fixing it c. washing it

9 Someone who is embarking on a new career is

- a. experienced b. starting out c. talkative

10 To transfer books, a librarian might

- a. read them b. move them c. recommend them



Write It! Write directions telling how to get to your playground. Use several Part 3 vocabulary words.