

Context Clues

for
Word
Wisdom

Wanted:

A Good Friend

What special things do you look for in a friend?
What makes someone want to be your friend?
Read this story about friendship. See if the same things matter to you.



Dog sat whimpering next to a tree. "What's wrong?" Owl asked as he flew overhead.

"Nobody likes me," **confessed** Dog. "Snake hisses at me every time he sees me. Squirrel won't share her food. Turtle complains that I'm noisy and that I rush around. I don't have any friends."

"We are all different," Owl replied. "It is important to find friends who like you for who you are. You have many fine traits. You may not be **cunning**, like Fox, but you don't try to trick people into doing what you want. You are **modest**, in contrast to Crow, who always boasts about his achievements. Unlike **stingy** Squirrel, who hides her nuts and won't share, you are **generous**. You share your affection with everyone. I'm glad you're different from **cranky** Snake, who hisses at everyone he sees. You, on the other hand, are rarely cross. You are always willing to be a friend to all.

"Never be **ashamed** of how you act," Owl continued. "You are so

faithful to your friends. In fact, you may be the most **loyal** creature in the world. There is nothing wrong or **disgraceful** about being who you are. Be **patient** while things are not going your way. The right friend will come along."

Dog began to feel a little prouder and more confident. Still, he was lonely.

One day, he was wandering near the edge of the forest when he saw two unusual animals. They walked on two paws instead of four and giggled as they tossed a round object back and forth. They were having so much fun that Dog could watch no longer. He raced after the ball and brought it back to the animals. They laughed and scratched him behind his ears. The three of them played together all afternoon.

That night when Dog saw Owl, Dog reported shyly, "I made two new friends today. Their names are Boy and Girl."


Context Clues Strategy

Look for What the Word Is Not Like


EXAMPLE: I would rather have a friend who is *sincere* than one who is fake or untrustworthy.

CLUE: The words *fake* or *untrustworthy* tell what the word *sincere* is unlike or contrasted with. Also, the words *rather...than* signal the clue.


Here are steps to figure out the meaning of the word *generous*, which appears in the story about Dog and his friends.

 **Read** the sentence with the unknown word. Read some of the words around the unknown word.


.....
Unlike stingy Squirrel, who hides her nuts and won't share, you are generous. You share your affection with everyone.

 **Look** for context clues. What words that tell **What the Word Is Not Like** can you find?


.....
Someone who is *generous* is not like someone who is *stingy* and *won't share*. The word *unlike* is also a clue.

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

.....
My teacher said I was *generous* because I share.

 **Predict** a meaning for the word.

.....
If someone is *generous*, he or she is willing to share.

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

.....
Generous means "not selfish; willing to share."



Unlock the Meanings

Practice the Strategy Here is another boldfaced word from the story about Dog and his friends on page 72. Use the context clues strategy on page 73 to figure out the meaning of the word.

modest



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



Look for context clues. Can you find words that tell **What the Word Is Not Like?**



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



Predict a meaning for the word *modest*.



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

WORD LIST

confess

cunning

 modest

stingy

 generous

cranky

ashamed

loyal

disgraceful

patient

Use Context Clues The two vocabulary words that you have learned so far are checked off in the Word List. Write the other eight words from the Word List under "Vocabulary Word." Predict a meaning for each word under "Your Prediction." Then check the meanings in the Word Wisdom Dictionary. Write the definition that fits the context under "Dictionary Says."

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

Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

confess

cunning

modest

stingy

generous

cranky

ashamed

loyal

disgraceful

patient

Use the Words Correctly in Writing Rewrite each sentence, using the word in parentheses.

1 Give as much as you can to support the team. (generous)

2 The baby was upset when she became tired. (cranky)

3 It's shameful to throw a lot of food away. (disgraceful)

4 The sly dog sneaked into the dining room, which it knew was off limits. (cunning)

5 My sister sticks up for me if someone teases me. (loyal)

6 The selfish man refused to pay the worker the amount he had promised. (stingy)

7 Never feel bad about yourself if you make a mistake; making mistakes is how we learn. (ashamed)

8 Jim did not brag about his drawing talent. (modest)

9 I have to admit that I don't like ice cream. (confess)

10 It is hard to be willing to wait for your grades. (patient)



Apply What You've Learned

Relate the Meanings Use what you've learned to answer the questions.

1 Why might people **confess** to something they are **ashamed** of?

2 In your opinion, is it **disgraceful** to be **stingy**? Explain.

3 How could someone stay **patient** if he or she had to live with **cranky** people?

4 What would you think if someone **cunning** acted in a **modest** way?

5 Do you believe it is more important to be **generous** or to be **loyal**? Explain.



Write It! Write a paragraph about what you look for in a friend. Use as many words as you can from the Word List on page 76.

Latin and Greek Roots

for
Word
Wisdom

Muhammad Ali:

The Greatest

As a boxer, Muhammad Ali could “float like a butterfly and sting like a bee.” As a man, he has inspired millions to stand up for their values.

Ali was born in 1942. He was named after his father, Cassius Clay Sr. Growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, Cassius Jr. was not a **genius**. In fact, he was a slow learner. A policeman urged him to train as a boxer. Cassius was **agreeable**. At age twelve, he began training. In high school, Cassius won 100 of 108 boxing matches. He won many championships, including two Golden Glove titles. At age eighteen, he won an Olympic gold medal.

Not a **passive** person, Cassius boasted about his fighting skills. His boasts were **genuine**. By age twenty-two, he was the heavy-weight champion of the world. In the ring, Cassius was as **graceful** as he was strong. He threw powerful punches. Then he danced away from his opponent.

Cassius decided to join the Nation of Islam. Afterward, he changed his name to Muhammad Ali.

Ali does not like war. It is not **compatible** with his values. In 1967, he refused to serve in the Vietnam conflict. Many fans turned against him. He lost his boxing title. Ali was sentenced to prison, but his sentence was overturned.

Ali returned to the boxing ring in 1970. Over the years, he won and lost his title two more times. He fought his last fight in 1981. He lost, but he was nearly forty years old. Then his health started to fail. By 1982, Ali knew he had Parkinson’s disease, a disease of the nervous system.


Ali no longer boxes. Still, he fights for what is right. Known as a **compassionate** person, he makes sure that young people learn job skills. **Grateful** for all he has, he helps victims of war. Now more **genteel** than fierce, Ali helps children around the world.


Ali is **gracious** to his fans. He is still one of the best-known people in the world. In 1996, millions watched him light the Olympic torch in Atlanta.


Muhammad Ali will always be admired for his strength, in and out of the ring.


Practice the Context Clues Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 78. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 73 to figure out the meaning of this word.


genteel

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

 **Look** for context clues to the word's meaning. Can you find words that tell What the Word Is Not Like?

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

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

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



Unlock the Meanings

Many words you use are made from Latin or Greek roots. Knowing the meanings of different roots can often help you figure out the meanings of new words. The following roots relate to behavior.

Latin Root: **pass, pat**
meaning: to bear or suffer
English word: *patient*
meaning: able to wait; willing to put up with problems

Latin and Greek Root: **gen**
meaning: to produce; a kind of
English word: *generous*
meaning: not selfish; willing to share

Latin Root: **grac, grat**
meaning: thankful
English word: *gracious*
meaning: showing kindness, courtesy, or tact

WORD LIST

- genius
- agreeable
- passive
- genuine
- graceful
- compatible
- compassionate
- grateful
- genteel
- gracious

Sort by Roots Find these roots in the Word List. Write each word on a line below the correct root. One word does not have the root *grat* or *grac*, but it comes from those roots. Write that word on the line with the other *grat* and *grac* words. Then think of other words you know that come from the same Latin or Greek roots.

Latin Root:
grac, grat

Latin and Greek Root:
gen

Latin Root:
pass, pat

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Behavior

Prefix
com-

Meaning
together, with

Example

com- (with) + pat (bear) + -ible (able)
= compatible

Use Roots and Prefixes Circle any roots and prefixes you find in the boldfaced words below. Use context clues, roots, and prefixes to write the meaning of each word. Then check your definition in the Word Wisdom Dictionary.

1 Even someone as brilliant as a **genius** must do his or her homework.

2 The **graceful** ballet dancer was a pleasure to watch.

3 My brother is more **genteel** since he took a class in good manners.

4 She was **agreeable** to our plan to go swimming.

5 We felt very welcomed by the **gracious** host.

6 A person is **compassionate** if he wants to help others who are suffering.

7 If something is not fake, then it is **genuine**.

8 If you appreciate what others do for you, you are **grateful**.

9 Well-matched roommates are **compatible**.

10 People who are **passive** do not take charge of their life.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

genius

agreeable

passive

genuine

graceful

compatible

compassionate

grateful

genteel

gracious

Choose the Correct Word Here is an example of a letter written a long time ago. Write the word from the Word List that best completes each sentence.

August 5, 1912

Dear Aunt Harriet,

I speak only the truth when I say that it was a real,

1 _____ pleasure to visit you last week.

I am very **2** _____ for my time at the

seashore. If it is **3** _____ to you, I would

like to return next summer. Cousin Louise and I are so

4 _____. She has the most kind and

5 _____ manners! I can't imagine visiting

more **6** _____ people. The journey home

passed quickly. We traveled by a pond with a pair of

7 _____ swans. One of the birds was

injured, so our kind and **8** _____ driver

stopped to rescue it. The bird was surprisingly quite

9 _____ as the driver removed some wire

from its beak. We said the driver was remarkable; a

10 _____ for figuring out how to do it

without upsetting the bird! Thank you for a lovely visit.

Most sincerely yours,

Your niece Emily



Apply What You've Learned

Find the Examples Write **E** next to each sentence only if it is an example of the boldfaced word.

- 1 **compatible** You like being with a friend because you have similar interests. _____
- 2 **gracious** Your cousin is a great dancer. _____
- 3 **genteel** You shake hands when introduced. _____
- 4 **genius** The employee came up with a new invention. _____

Demonstrate Word Knowledge Follow the directions below.

- 5 Describe a time when you acted in a **compassionate** way.

- 6 Describe how an animal might act in a way that is **passive**.

- 7 Describe a time when you wondered if something was **genuine**.

- 8 Describe a time when you were **grateful** for something.

- 9 Describe something you once saw that was very **graceful**.

- 10 Tell whether you'd be **agreeable** to six hours of homework.



Speak It! Tell about a person you would like to know better. Use as many words as you can from the Word List on page 82.

Reference Skills

for
Word
Wisdom

Wild Behavior:

Gorilla Watch

What are gorillas like? Do they really act like people? Can we find out before they disappear from Earth?

People have always been **curious** about gorillas. However, much of the African forest where gorillas live is gone. It has been turned into towns, villages, and camps for logging and mining. The number of gorillas living in the wild drops each year. Some kinds of gorillas are endangered. It's getting harder to find gorillas to study. Still, people are trying to protect them. In 1993, a park was created in the Congo. It includes a large, swampy clearing. The clearing covers about twenty-five acres and was probably created by elephants. This clearing attracts many animals. There, scientists can observe wild gorillas.

We once thought that gorillas avoid water. Not **hesitant** about getting wet, these gorillas jump right into the water. They like to sit in it and munch on nearby plants. Gorillas live in groups. A large male leads each group. The group includes young males, females, and babies. Groups often eat side by side. Mostly, they are **courteous** to each other,


Still, a group leader may feel **anxious** if another large male gets too close. The leader might slap the water with his huge hand. The sharp noise is often enough to scare away the **inconsiderate** male. Sometimes the leader also soaks the offender with a large spray of water.


An **adventurous** young male sometimes tries to lure away females from other groups. He might try to scare the females into following him. The young male might shriek at them loudly. He might beat his chest to show his **ferocious** power. The older male may watch him for a while. Often he will ignore him. If he feels threatened, he may become **furious**. Then he will charge the younger gorilla. This quickly puts a stop to his **disrespectful** actions. The intruder, now **humble**, runs for his life.


Watching gorillas allows scientists to better understand them. We need to learn as much as we can about these animals. Then we will be better able to protect them. We don't want them to disappear from Earth. Learning about animals and their needs also helps us learn about ourselves.


Practice the Context Clues Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 84. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 73 to figure out the meaning of this word.


hesitant

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

 **Look** for context clues to the word's meaning. Can you find words that tell **What the Word Is Not Like?**

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

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

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



Unlock the Meanings

Dictionary Definitions: Multiple Meanings

Some words have more than one meaning. Multiple meanings are usually listed in a separate dictionary entry. The entries are marked with a raised number. Dictionaries also use abbreviations to refer to the part of speech of the word. For example, *n.* stands for noun, *v.* stands for verb, and *adj.* stands for adjective.

When you are looking for the meaning of an unfamiliar word, think about the context in which the word appears. Choose the definition that fits the context in which the unfamiliar word is used. Here are two dictionary entries that give multiple meanings for the word *anxious*.

anx·ious¹ /'æŋk' shəs/ *adj.* worried; uneasy. *We became anxious when our dog didn't return immediately.*

anx·ious² /'æŋk' shəs/ *adj.* eagerly wishing. *They were anxious for the party to begin.*

Choose the Dictionary Definition Using the dictionary entries above, choose the correct definition for the word *anxious* in each sentence below. Write the number of the definition on the blank line.

- 1** Mr. and Mrs. Ruiz are anxious to meet us. _____
- 2** Everyone is anxious for summer vacation to begin. _____
- 3** Don't be anxious about taking the test; you will pass easily. _____
- 4** We are anxious to celebrate your birthday. _____
- 5** My cats become anxious during thunderstorms. _____



**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 the steps you used.

WORD LIST

- curious
- hesitant
- courteous
- anxious
- inconsiderate
- adventurous
- ferocious
- furious
- disrespectful
- humble

1 Adventurous people would enjoy rafting on high waves.

2 It is disrespectful to talk during a violin performance.

3 Humble people do not brag about what they do well.

4 Are you curious about what life will be like in the future?

5 The mother bear became ferocious when her cub was in danger.

6 I'd be furious if someone tried to hurt my little brother.

7 The shy little boy was hesitant about petting the big dog.

8 Keeping other people waiting is inconsiderate.

9 It is courteous to respond when someone asks you a question.

10 The man looked anxious as he crossed the rising stream.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

- curious
- hesitant
- courteous
- anxious
- inconsiderate
- adventurous
- ferocious
- furious
- disrespectful
- humble

Build Word Ladders Use the words in the box below to make a word ladder. Order the lists with the most positive characteristic at the top and the most negative characteristic at the bottom.

.....
 : disrespectful courteous inconsiderate :
 :
 :

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

.....
 : curious hesitant adventurous :
 :
 :

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

Match the Meanings Match each vocabulary word with its correct definition.

Vocabulary Word

- 7** _____ anxious
- 8** _____ humble
- 9** _____ furious
- 10** _____ ferocious

Definition

- a. wild and fierce
- b. meek or modest
- c. extremely angry
- d. worried or nervous



Apply What You've Learned

Complete the Sentences Write an ending for each sentence.

- 1 Something that you are **curious** about is _____

- 2 One way people could be **courteous** is _____

- 3 Something that makes many students **anxious** is _____

- 4 If you are **adventurous**, you might enjoy _____

- 5 Something that is **inconsiderate** to do is _____

Demonstrate Word Knowledge Answer the questions.

- 6 How could a storm and an animal both be **ferocious**?

- 7 Would you be **hesitant** to hold a harmless snake? Explain.

- 8 What might make a person **furious**? _____
- 9 What might a **disrespectful** person do? _____
- 10 Would you describe yourself as **humble**? Explain.



Write It! Write a description of your personality.
Use words from the Word List on page 88.

Review

For
Word
Wisdom

Sort by Connotation Read the words in the Word List. Pick the words that could describe someone in a positive way. Then choose the words that could describe someone in a negative way. Circle any words with the roots *pass* or *pat*, *grac* or *grat*, and *gen*.

WORD LIST

- confess
- cunning
- modest
- stingy
- generous
- cranky
- ashamed
- loyal
- disgraceful
- patient
- genius
- agreeable
- passive
- genuine
- graceful
- compatible
- compassionate
- grateful
- genteel
- gracious
- curious
- hesitant
- courteous
- anxious
- inconsiderate
- adventurous
- ferocious
- furious
- disrespectful
- humble

Positive



Negative



Find Related Words Read the sentences below. Look at the underlined word part. Write the vocabulary word that contains the underlined word part and fits the context.

- 1 I'd be _____ if you would grate the cheese.
- 2 Karen has a polite, gentle nature. Her manners are quite _____.
- 3 Tom was so generous in his praise, I wondered if he was _____.
- 4 Littering their neighbors' yard was disgraceful after the neighbors had been so _____ to them.
- 5 Alex is very _____ on the tennis court. He never yells or throws his racquet.
- 6 I _____ that I can't control my dog.
- 7 The kind and gentle man is a _____ because his inventions help others.
- 8 When Lola saw how patient Tia was, she knew they would be _____ team members.
- 9 The dancer was very gracious when we told her how _____ her dance performance was.
- 10 More people brag about themselves in modern times compared with long ago. They are not as _____ as people were in the past.

Taking Vocabulary Tests



TEST-TAKING STRATEGY

Read the directions carefully when you take a vocabulary test. If the directions tell you to find the **OPPOSITE**, or **ANTONYM**, don't get tricked by answer choices that are synonyms or near synonyms. This test asks you to find the word that has the **OPPOSITE** meaning of the underlined word.

Sample:

passive person

- (A) quiet
- (B) sleepy
- (C) athletic
- (D) active

Practice Test Circle the letter of the answer choice that means the **OPPOSITE** of the underlined vocabulary word.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 seem <u>furious</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) tired (B) angry (C) pleased (D) upset | <p>6 <u>curious</u> look</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) funny (B) bored (C) energetic (D) puzzled |
| <p>2 feel <u>ashamed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) foolish (B) proud (C) hungry (D) moved | <p>7 <u>disrespectful</u> tone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) loud (B) rude (C) hurtful (D) polite |
| <p>3 <u>ferocious</u> animal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) tame (B) wild (C) four-legged (D) sure-footed | <p>8 <u>anxious</u> moment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) calm (B) quiet (C) weepy (D) cheerful |
| <p>4 <u>cranky</u> child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) tired (B) grouchy (C) agreeable (D) quiet | <p>9 <u>agreeable</u> person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) willing (B) honest (C) unwilling (D) happy |
| <p>5 <u>inconsiderate</u> act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) short (B) careful (C) careless (D) thoughtful | <p>10 <u>hesitant</u> step</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) running (B) small (C) timid (D) bold |


 Play with Language

King Arthur's Code According to legend, the Knights of the Round Table who served King Arthur were expected to follow a strict code of conduct. Check the Word List on page 90 to find synonyms for the characteristics below. Then unscramble the circled letters to find the name of the knights' code.

Traits of Knights of the Round Table

1 daring: ___ ___ ___ ___

2 polite: ___ ___

3 modest: ___ ___ ___

4 faithful: ___ ___ ___

5 caring about someone's suffering:

___ ___ ___ ___

6 unselfish: ___ ___ ___ ___

Code of ___ ___



Speak It! Suppose you were to start a club whose members did good deeds in secret. How would you choose the club members? What kinds of deeds would the club members do? Use as many words as you can from the Word List on page 90.