

Context Clues

For
Word
Wisdom

A Great Communicator:

Will Rogers

The word *communicate* is related to the word *common*, meaning “shared.” Many gifted communicators share their ideas in ways that others understand and enjoy. Will Rogers was a performer whose gift for communicating made him a famous American.



Will Rogers was born in 1879. He was part Cherokee and grew up in Indian territory that later became Oklahoma. Will rode horses and roped cattle, and he loved doing tricks with his lariat, or lasso. He practiced endlessly and competed in roping and riding contests.

As a young man, Will performed in traveling Wild West shows across the country. Later, Will performed in theaters as “The Lariat King.” His lasso tricks impressed audiences. He began to add **conversational** remarks about the trick he was about to do. “I don’t have any idea that I’ll get it, but anyway, here goes,” he would **drawl** gently. The audience laughed in appreciation. If he missed a trick, he made another **quip** to get a laugh. Unlike some comedians who **impersonated** various people, Will Rogers seemed real and sincere.

Will’s act was more **monologue** than rope tricks. Unlike a rehearsed

speech, his comments were **spontaneous**. He used news items to gently **ridicule** the government and joke about current events. “Congress is so strange,” he said. “A man gets up to speak and says nothing. Nobody listens; then everybody disagrees.”

Unlike some comedians’ daring **pronouncements**, Will’s were not harsh. Instead, they were truthful, charming, and funny observations. People listened and believed him.

Soon, Will Rogers gained world **acclaim**. He starred on stage, in radio, and in films. He wrote a news column read by millions. He met world leaders. “It’s great to be great,” he said. “But it’s greater to be human.” He grew rich, but eagerly gave money to people in need.

When Will Rogers died in a plane crash in 1935, Americans grieved. They lost their cowboy **humorist**, wise observer, and friend.


Context Clues Strategy

Look for What the Word Is Not Like


EXAMPLE: Unlike the rambling, disorganized talks given by some teachers, Professor Cohen's lectures are *concise*.

CLUE: The sentence tells you that a concise lecture is "unlike the rambling, disorganized talks." Therefore it must be organized and purposeful.


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

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


.....
Unlike some comedians who impersonated various people, Will Rogers seemed real and sincere.

 **Look** for context clues. Do any words tell What the Word Is Not Like?


.....
The words *unlike some comedians* point out that Will Rogers was different from other comedians who impersonated people. The words *real* and *sincere* show how he was different.

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

.....
The word *person* is in *impersonated*.

 **Predict** a meaning for the word.

.....
The word *impersonate* probably means "to pretend to be another person."

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

.....
The word *impersonate* means "to act like or copy the appearance or speech of another person."



Unlock the Meanings

Practice the Strategy One of the boldfaced words from the article on page 72 appears below. Use the context clues strategy on page 73 to figure out the meaning of this word.

spontaneous



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



Look for context clues to the word's meaning. Do any words tell What the Word Is Not Like?



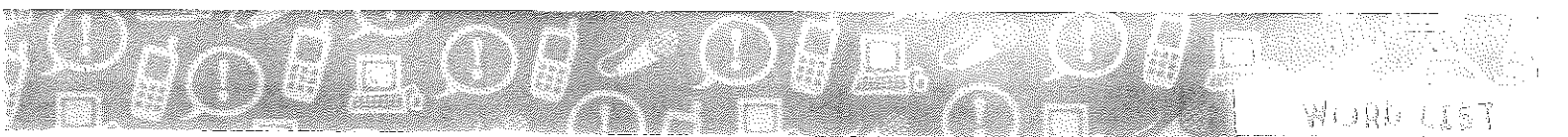
Think about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?



Predict a meaning for the word *spontaneous*.



Check your Word Wisdom Dictionary to be sure of the meaning of the word *spontaneous*. Write the dictionary meaning on the line.



WORD LIST

- conversational _____
- drawl _____
- quip _____
- ✓ impersonate _____
- monologue _____
- ✓ spontaneous _____
- ridicule _____
- pronouncement _____
- acclaim _____
- humorist _____

Use Context Clues You have been introduced to two vocabulary words from the article about Will Rogers. Those words are checked off in the Word List here. Under "Vocabulary Word," write the other eight words from the Word List. Predict a meaning for each word under "Your Prediction." Then check the meanings in the Word Wisdom Dictionary. Write the definitions under "Dictionary Says."

Vocabulary Word

Your Prediction

Dictionary Says

1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

conversational

drawl

quip

impersonate

monologue

spontaneous

ridicule

pronouncement

acclaim

humorist

Use the Words Correctly in Writing Rewrite each sentence. Include the word in parentheses in your sentence.

1 The comedian told jokes for fifteen minutes. (monologue)

2 The unexpected cheers encouraged the football team. (spontaneous)

3 Will Rogers's funny articles and talks made him popular. (humorist)

4 Her slow, drawn-out way of speaking was charming. (drawl)

5 Don't make fun of someone, because your comments may hurt. (ridicule)

6 The speaker used an easy, natural tone. (conversational)

7 It is against the law to pretend to be a police officer. (impersonate)

8 Kay made an important statement. (pronouncement)

9 Jo the clown always had a funny remark ready. (quip)

10 The winning team came home to crowds of fans. (acclaim)



Apply What You've Learned

Relate the Meanings Follow the directions below.

- 1 Describe a time when you had to act or talk spontaneously.

- 2 What would you do if you were trying to impersonate a cat?

- 3 What have you talked about lately in a conversational way?

- 4 How would you feel if someone ridiculed you?

- 5 In what kinds of movies might actors speak with a drawl?

- 6 How could a spontaneous quip help a speaker in a debate?

- 7 What pronouncement does the head jurist make after a trial?

- 8 What could you do that would likely earn you acclaim?

- 9 When an actor gives a monologue, what do the other actors do?

- 10 Name some people a humorist might like to impersonate.



Write It! Write a review of a movie or television show. Use as many vocabulary words from Part 1 as you can.

Latin and Greek Roots

For
Word
Wisdom

That Doesn't Sound Like English:

Understanding Shakespeare

A lot of people think that the works of William Shakespeare are dull. But Shakespeare entertained his audiences with the same elements that modern movies use: love, suspense, and humor. You just have to understand what you're reading.

Many people **claim** that they get lost when reading a Shakespearean play or when watching one performed. They do not understand the language. They use the **analogy** that Shakespeare's language is a foreign language even though he wrote in English! But there are ways to improve your understanding of Shakespeare's works.

It is helpful to see a Shakespeare play performed live. You can hear the **intonations** in the actors' speech. You can experience the actors performing the **dialogue**. The actors give life to the play's characters and events. For example, a dull character might speak his or her lines in a **monotone** voice. When an exciting event happens, an actor might **exclaim** his or her

lines. For example, after King Lear **disclaims** his relation to his daughter in the play *King Lear*, the king of France speaks excitedly about his choice to marry her. This is a very tense moment in the play.


Before you see a play, it's helpful to read a summary of the plot. Many of Shakespeare's plays begin with a **prologue**, or an introduction. But this only summarizes part of the play. If you read a summary, you will understand the main idea of the play. You will know what to expect. Then you can focus on the details.


Another way to get familiar with Shakespeare's language is to watch a play on video. There are a lot of movies based on Shakespeare's plays. Some are set in modern times, and others are set in Shakespeare's time. People have even put Shakespeare's writing to music. Everyone can sing along—from deep, rich **baritones** to high sopranos, and everyone in between!


The more Shakespearean English you hear, the more you will understand it. Maybe someday you can **proclaim** yourself an expert!


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.


baritone

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

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

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

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

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



Unlock the Meanings

You know that some English words have Latin roots. English words can also come from Greek roots. In this unit, you will learn Latin and Greek roots related to communication.

Latin Root: claim

meaning: shout, call out

English word: *acclaim*

meaning: public praise

Latin Root: ton

meaning: tone

English word: *undertone*

meaning: a low or quiet sound

Greek Root: log

meaning: word

English word: *monologue*

meaning: a speech or jokes told by one person

WORD LIST

claim

analogy

intonation

dialogue

monotone

exclaim

disclaim

prologue

baritone

proclaim

Sort by Roots Write each word from the Word List under the correct Latin and Greek roots below. Then write other words you know that come from the same Latin and Greek roots.

Latin Root:
claim

Latin Root:
ton

Greek Root:
log

Communication

Prefix	Meaning
mono-	one
pro-	before

Example

mono- (one) + ton (tone) = **monotone**

Use Roots and Prefixes Circle any root and prefix you find in each boldfaced word. Then use context clues, roots, and prefixes to write the meaning of each word.

1 Unlike a soprano, a **baritone** has a low singing voice.

2 The judge proclaimed loudly that Kendal had won the blue ribbon.

3 In act one, two characters in the play have a **dialogue** about camping.

4 The makers of Tasty O's **claim** that their cereal will keep you healthy.

5 Because Yi read the **prologue** first, he knew what the book was about.

6 Voters were bored listening to the candidate speak in a **monotone**.

7 "I can't believe you got me a puppy for my birthday!" she **exclaimed**.

8 Ryan's **analogy** of a spider's web describes our highway system.

9 Leah's **intonation** made her oral report easy to understand.

10 My brother **disclaimed** responsibility for the broken window.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

- claim
- analogy
- intonation
- dialogue
- monotone
- exclaim
- disclaim
- prologue
- baritone
- proclaim

Complete the Meanings Write the word that best completes the sentence and explains the boldfaced word.

- 1** A **dialogue** is a(n) _____
a. speech b. announcement c. conversation
- 2** You use an **analogy** to _____ two things.
a. compare b. describe c. explain
- 3** The singing voice of a **baritone** is _____.
a. high b. low c. loud
- 4** The **prologue** of a play comes at the _____.
a. beginning b. middle c. end
- 5** A **monotone** is a _____ tone of voice.
a. soft b. harsh c. single
- 6** A speaker with good **intonation** changes _____.
a. posture b. pitch c. accent

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

- 7** "I can't believe I won!" he said loudly with surprise.

- 8** My voice teacher states as a fact that she can teach anyone to sing.

- 9** The students said they didn't have any knowledge of the classroom prank.

- 10** The newly elected mayor will officially announce victory tomorrow evening.

Apply What You've Learned

Give Reasons Answer each question with **yes** or **no**. Give reasons for your answers.

1 Could a robbery suspect disclaim responsibility?

2 Could a suspect proclaim his or her innocence of a crime?

3 Are you likely to read a prologue in the newspaper?

4 Is the dialogue of a play usually written in the program?

5 Could someone claim that they had been to Japan?

6 Do you expect actors in a movie to speak in a monotone?

Name the Categories Write a word from the Word List to complete each list below. Then tell what category all the words belong to.

	Word	Category
7	alto, tenor,	_____
8	simile, metaphor,	_____
9	shout, holler,	_____
10	volume, rate,	_____



Speak It! Create an announcement for a real or imaginary play. Deliver your announcement to your class. Use some words from the Part 2 Word List.

Reference Skills

For
Word
Wisdom

The Internet:

See History Come to Life

How do you like to learn about history? You can read books, visit museums, or watch movies. But did you know that you can also learn about history on the Internet?

Maybe you think history is boring. Who cares what happened long ago? You might think history is just words and photographs in a book. Well, there's a place where history comes to life. On the Internet you can hear and see history.

There are Web sites that have recorded history. Some college teachers have recordings of their **lectures** online. You can also find famous speeches on the Internet. You can listen to Martin Luther King Jr. **assert** his belief in equal rights. You can hear Albert Einstein **declare** that the use of atomic bombs is a terrible thing. You can hear Thomas Edison **elaborate** on his discoveries in electricity. You actually hear these important people from history!

And history does not just mean politics and science; it also means culture. You can listen to singers John Lennon and Paul McCartney offer an **expression** of the

importance of music. You'll hear Babe Ruth **insist** that baseball is the best game in the world. There are some recordings that sound unclear. This might be because the **acoustics** in the recording location were not very good. But overall, you get a feel for the historical moment.


If audio is not enough for you, you can watch video clips, too. You might watch a news clip where experts **converse** about a certain topic. Do you want to watch American astronauts put the flag on the moon? Visit the NASA Web site. In fact, you can find clips from many historical events. All you have to do is search. The Internet does not hide history away; it **accentuates** how interesting history can be.


Written documents are also important to history. At the Web site of the U.S. National Archives, you can see many important documents in our country's history. There are even copies of famous **petitions** online—you can actually view the signatures of the people who signed them!

New things are added to the Internet every day. Take a look and see what you can find. You'll see that history is very exciting!


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.

accentuates

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

 **Look** for context clues to the word's meaning. Do any words 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 *accentuate*.

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



Unlock the Meanings

Multiple Meanings Because many English words have more than one meaning, you will often find more than one definition in a dictionary entry. Each definition is numbered. Read the five different meanings for the word *expression*.

expression¹ /ik spresh' ən/ *n.* the act of communicating, as in words. *Pam's speech was an expression of her ideas.*

expression² /ik spresh' ən/ *n.* something that communicates an opinion or a feeling. *The flowers were an expression of our sorrow.*

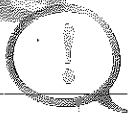
expression³ /ik spresh' ən/ *n.* a look on one's face that shows feelings. *Jordan's serious expression meant things were going badly.*

expression⁴ /ik spresh' ən/ *n.* a way of speaking, singing, or playing that shows a certain feeling. *Our teacher read the poem with great expression.*

expression⁵ /ik spresh' ən/ *n.* a particular word or phrase. *I hear the common expression "Exercise your right to vote!" around election day.*

Choose Definitions Using the dictionary entries above, write 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 to tell which meaning of *expression* is used in the sentence.

- 1** ___ Carmen played her piano solo with great **expression**.
- 2** ___ The essay contained an **expression** of his thoughts.
- 3** ___ All the children at the beach had joyful **expressions**.
- 4** ___ Mom uses the **expression** "spick and span."
- 5** ___ Tears can sometimes be an **expression** of happiness.



**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 decide on the meaning of each boldfaced word. Write the meaning of the word. Then write 1, 2, or 3 to show which steps you used.

- 1 They signed a petition asking the city for a recycling program.

- 2 The great acoustics in the concert hall allowed us to hear well.

- 3 He asserted that more tax money should be spent on education.

- 4 Her handmade gift for me was an expression of friendship.

- 5 Dad insisted that we finish our work before going to the park.

- 6 The speaker gave her lecture on comets from a museum stage.

- 7 My best friend and I converse on the phone almost every day.

- 8 Your bright blue shirt accentuates the color of your eyes.

- 9 Please elaborate on your report by adding more examples.

- 10 The principal declared that skates are not allowed in school.

WORD LIST

lecture
assert
declare
elaborate
expression
insist
acoustics
converse
accentuate
petition

Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

lecture

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declare

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expression

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petition

Identify the Synonyms Write the word that is the best synonym for each boldfaced word.

1 accentuate his good qualities _____

- a. find b. stress c. notice

2 to converse for hours _____

- a. talk b. rest c. travel

3 to insist that we all wear hats _____

- a. ask b. agree c. demand

4 elaborated on her idea _____

- a. decided b. concentrated c. expanded

5 a lecture about Abraham Lincoln _____

- a. book b. speech c. discussion

6 asserted that his team would win _____

- a. claimed b. hoped c. planned

Choose the Correct Word Write the correct word from the Word List to complete each sentence. You may need to add an ending. Underline any parts of the sentence that helped you make your choice.

7 Kris collected voters' signatures on a _____.

8 The food basket was an _____ of thanks.

9 Ben loudly _____ that we should cook dinner.

10 Improved _____ in the theater helped audiences hear the performance better.



Apply What You've Learned

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

1 During a water shortage, what is a governor likely to declare?

2 What might two doctors converse about?

3 How could a speaker begin a lecture?

4 What might a confident student assert?

Complete the Sentences Complete each sentence in a way that shows your understanding of the boldfaced word.

5 The artist **accentuated** the painting by _____

6 Voters signed a **petition** asking _____

7 As an **expression** of her gratitude, she _____

8 The room's **acoustics** were so poor that _____

9 She **elaborated** on her story by _____

10 I didn't play well, so the coach **insisted** _____



Write It! Write a speech on a topic you know well. Use words from the Word List on page 88.