

Context Clues

for
Word
Wisdom

Step by Step:

Erik Weihenmayer

Small challenges keep some people from following their dreams. Other people who are challenged in large ways manage to make their dreams come true. Read about climber Erik Weihenmayer, who faces very large challenges and manages to make very large dreams come true.



Far away in Nepal lie the world's tallest mountains, the Himalayas. You may think that these peaks are **impassable** to all but the world's fittest climbers. This is generally true. However, the jagged peaks do not stop climber Erik Weihenmayer, who is blind.

Erik has never let blindness be a **barrier** to things he wants to do. He pushes himself to try things that sighted people may not be willing to try. Erik says he might never have climbed Mount Everest if he hadn't lost his sight.

At nearly thirty thousand feet high, Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. Like the dangers in any steep, snowy place, its **hazards** include strong winds and severe cold. Climbers must be careful of avalanches. Deep, narrow canyons in the ice are another hidden danger.

Like the rate of speed of any other mountain climber, Erik's

pace up Mount Everest is slow. He follows the sound of a bell that his climbing buddies carry. He uses long poles for balance as he **treks** up the trail.

Local Sherpa guides **accompany** Himalayan climbers. They are a crucial part of any **expedition** in these mountains. Sherpas act as **porters**. They often carry the climbers' heavy packs up Everest. Erik, however, carries his own pack.

Whenever he climbs, Erik can hear what he calls open and closed spaces. He listens for a drop-off into space. Sounds also tell him when he reaches some type of barrier. He is surprisingly **mobile**. Wherever he goes, he keeps up with the rest of his team. He tackles the most **grueling** and difficult climbs the world has to offer. In fact, Erik Weihenmayer is the first blind person to reach the top of the highest mountains on all seven of the world's continents.


Context Clues Strategy

Look for What the Word Is Like


EXAMPLE: A *gorge*, like any narrow, rocky path, is a danger for climbers.

CLUE: The words *like any narrow, rocky path* tell you what a *gorge* is like.


Here are the steps for using this context clues strategy to figure out the meaning of the word *pace* from the article on page 94.

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


Like the rate of speed of any other mountain climber, Erik's pace up Mount Everest is slow.

 **Look** for context clues. What words that tell What the Word Is Like can you find?


The sentence says that Erik's *pace* is like *the rate of speed* of other climbers.

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

My track coach tells us to pick up the pace when we run. She means for us to run faster.

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

Pace could be someone's speed of moving.

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

Pace means "the rate of speed of walking or running."



Unlock the Meanings

Practice the Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the article on page 94. Use the context clues strategy on page 95 to figure out the meaning of the word.

hazards



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



Look for context clues. What words that tell **What the Word Is Like** can you find?



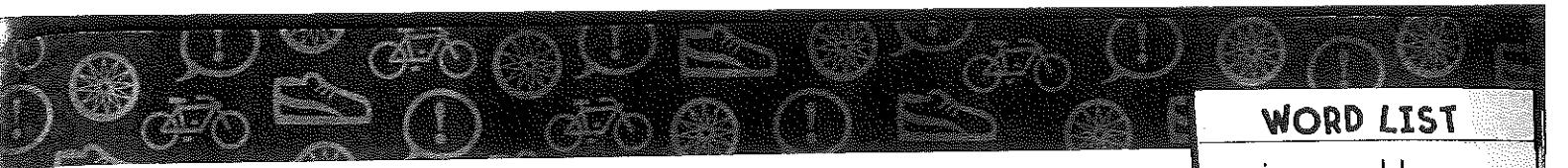
Think about the context clues. What other helpful information do you know?



Predict a meaning for the word *hazards*.



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



Use Context Clues You have been introduced to two vocabulary words from the article on page 94. 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 look up the meanings in the Word Wisdom Dictionary. Write the definition under "Dictionary Says."

WORD LIST
impassable
barrier
✓hazard
✓pace
trek
accompany
expedition
porter
mobile
grueling

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



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

impassable

barrier

hazard

pace

trek

accompany

expedition

porter

mobile

grueling

Match the Definitions Write the word from the Word List that matches each definition.

1 hike

2 danger

3 movable

4 not able to be crossed

5 something that blocks the way

Choose the Correct Word Write the word from the Word List that best completes each sentence in this friendly letter. Do not repeat any of the words from the exercise above.

Dear Neil,

Our scout troop hiked in the mountains last weekend. My mom decided that she wanted to hike, too, and that she would **6** _____ us. We walked at a quick

7 _____ for five hours. We all found the

hike tough and **8** _____. Mom's back

was sore from carrying a heavy pack. When we got home,

Mom told Dad he should plan to go on our next

9 _____. She said he could be her

10 _____!

Your friend,

Marcus



Apply What You've Learned

Relate the Meanings Answer the questions. Use the boldfaced words in your answers.

1 What kinds of **hazards** might slow a hiker's **pace**?

2 What kind of **barriers** could make a road **impassable**?

3 Why must a **porter** be **mobile**?

4 If you were to **trek** across the United States, would you find it **grueling**? Why or why not?

5 Would you like to **accompany** people on an **expedition** to the North Pole? Why or why not?



Write It! Describe a hike you once took. Use as many words from the Word List in Part 1 as you can.

Latin Roots

for
Word
Wisdom

East Meets West:

Crossing the Country by Rail

Traveling was not easy in the early 1800s. There were no cars or airplanes. Goods were moved on ships, not trucks.

In the early 1800s the main means of **locomotion** were by foot, on horseback, or in a covered wagon. Many people rode trains, but they went no farther west than the Mississippi River. It was difficult to **transport** goods beyond this river. The government wanted to **promote** travel to the West. In 1862, Congress decided to **expand** the railroads, just like it was building more roads. The rails would stretch across the nation to link both coasts.

Two companies built the first railway to cross the country. One started in Omaha, Nebraska, laying tracks toward the West. The other company started in Sacramento, California, laying tracks toward the East. The tracks would finally meet in Utah.

The California crew began in 1863. At first, laying track was easy. Then the crew reached the Sierra Nevada Mountains. There was no **passage** through the mountains.

Hills had to be leveled. Valleys had to be filled in. At one place, workers had to drill through solid rock that stretched for a quarter of a mile! Blasting a tunnel through this rock took a whole year.

The Nebraska crew began in 1865. They faced bad weather across the Plains. They also faced angry Native Americans who did not want the railroad crews to **trespass** on their land.


Laying the track took years. The two companies raced each other. Each wanted to **surpass** the other one. Finally, crews from both companies could see each other. The tracks met at Promontory Point, Utah. The date was May 10, 1869. The two companies had laid two thousand miles of track.


At last, people could ride a train from the East Coast to the West Coast. Now people in the East could **import** fruit from the West. Eastern states could **export** steel and other products to the West. Trains began carrying **portable** goods across the nation.


Although fewer people ride them now, trains played a major role in the settling of the West. And they still transport needed goods today.


Practice the Context Clues Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the essay on page 100. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 95 to figure out the meaning of this word.


expand

 **Read** the sentence that uses the word *expand* and some of the sentences around it,

 **Look** for context clues to the word's meaning. What words can you find that tell **What the Word Is Like?**

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

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

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



Unlock the Meanings

Many words you use come from Latin roots. Knowing the meaning of different roots will help you figure out the meaning of new words. Several words you learned in Part 1 have a Latin root. Each root on this page relates to movement.

Latin Root: **port**

meaning: to carry

English word: *porter*

meaning: person who carries

Latin Root: **pan, pass**

meaning: to spread, to step

English word: *impassable*

meaning: not able to be crossed over or passed

Latin Root: **mot, mov**

meaning: to move

English word: *mobile*

meaning: able to move

WORD LIST

locomotion

transport

promote

expand

passage

trespass

surpass

import

export

portable

Sort by Roots Find these roots in the Word List. Write each word on a line under the correct root. Then think of other words that come from the same Latin roots. Write each word in the correct place.

Movement

Latin Root:
port

Latin Root:
pan, pass

Latin Root:
mot, mov

Prefixim-
sur-**Meaning**in, not
over, above**Example**

sur- (over) + pass (step) = surpass

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

1 Eating too many desserts will **expand** a person's waistline.

2 Companies promote new bands by playing their music on the radio.

3 Pipelines **transport** gas from one part of the country to another.

4 This birthday will **surpass** everything you ever hoped it would be.

5 My favorite kind of **locomotion** is a train ride.

6 Doesn't his family **import** spices from around the world?

7 Can you walk through that small **passage** between the rocks?

8 What products does the United States **export** to other countries?

9 My grandfather carries a **portable** chair when he goes to a museum.

10 They don't like it when people **trespass** on their property.



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

- locomotion
- transport
- promote
- expand
- passage
- trespass
- surpass
- import
- export
- portable

Replace the Words Write the word from the Word List that means nearly the same as the underlined word or words in each sentence.

- _____ **1** Reading books will increase the size or number of the ideas in your mind.
- _____ **2** Did you do better than your score on the last spelling test?
- _____ **3** Is that box easy to carry?
- _____ **4** Does Italy sell many pairs of shoes to the United States?
- _____ **5** The sign warned people not to go onto private property.

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

- 6** We had a special science fair to _____ ways to prevent pollution.
- 7** They heard voices in the narrow _____ between the buildings.
- 8** Skipping and running are both forms of _____.
- 9** Some factories _____ raw materials from other countries to make new products.
- 10** Seeing that movie will _____ you to another time.



Apply What You've Learned

Complete the Sentences Complete each sentence below.

1 Children might trespass if _____

2 Two forms of locomotion are _____

3 An idea that the government might promote is _____

4 I surpassed what I thought I could do when I _____

5 Something I own that is portable is _____

6 A plane is likely to transport _____

7 Two things that can expand are _____

8 Some things that the United States imports are _____

9 A narrow passage that I once went through was _____

10 A product that Europe exports to the United States is _____



Speak It! Tell what you would take if you were moving to a new place. How would you carry these items? Use as many words from the Word List in Part 2 as you can.

Reference Skills

for
Word
Wisdom

How to Ride a Horse

Many children want to have a horse, but few get their wish. If you get a chance to ride a horse, the tips in this essay will help you enjoy the experience.

To mount a horse, move to its left side. Make sure the strap holding the saddle on (the girth) is tight. A loose girth will allow the saddle to slip from side to side or to **migrate** along the horse's back. To get on the horse, step up on a mounting block to **elevate** your body and make mounting easier. Hold the reins in your left hand. Put that hand on the raised front part (the pommel) of the saddle. Hold the reins firmly so the horse does not **shuffle** around as you try to mount. However, do not pull back on the reins, as that will cause the horse to **retreat**.

Put your left foot in the ring that supports the rider's foot (the stirrup) and your right hand on the back of the saddle. Then jump up and swing your right leg over the horse, moving your right hand as your leg goes by.

Be careful not to kick the horse, or it may move forward. If you

accidentally kick the horse hard, it may even **bolt** and run away. After that, the horse may try to **evade** you, like any animal tries to get away from something scary.

To ask the horse to walk, squeeze its sides gently with your lower legs. After it starts to **advance**, relax your legs. Some horses need a gentle kick with both heels before they will move forward.


A trot is a slow run. To ask the horse to trot, squeeze its sides with your legs again, applying more pressure this time. A **canter** is a faster run. After your horse is trotting, squeeze your legs again to ask it to canter.


To get the horse to turn or **rotate**, gently pull back on one rein while using your legs to encourage the horse to go forward. To stop the horse, gently pull back on both reins and squeeze with your legs again. If the horse is running, encourage it to move from a canter, to a trot, to a walk, and then to a halt.


Now you are ready to ride! If you **conduct** yourself with confidence around the horse, it will feel more relaxed, and you both will enjoy the ride.


Practice the Context Clues Strategy Here is one of the boldfaced words from the riding instructions on page 106. Use the context clues strategy you learned in Part 1 on page 95 to figure out the meaning of this word.


evade

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

 **Look** for context clues to the word's meaning. What words can you find that tell **What the Word Is Like?**

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

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

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



Unlock the Meanings

Computer Thesaurus A thesaurus is a reference tool that is useful when you are looking for just the right word. It lists words that are synonyms (words that have the same or almost the same meaning).

If you use a computer program for writing, it probably has a built-in thesaurus. To use a **computer thesaurus**, click on the word for which you need a synonym. Then go to the “Tools” menu and open the thesaurus. A list of synonyms will be displayed.

Here are some synonyms that a computer thesaurus might give for the word *advance*.

go forward

bring forward

march

set forward

push forward

Choose the Synonyms Write the synonym from the box above that best replaces the word *advance* in each sentence.

- 1 Don't forget to *advance* your watch when you enter the new time zone. _____
- 2 You can *advance* a pawn two spaces in its first chess move.

- 3 The hikers can *advance* easily to the next hill and wait for us there. _____
- 4 When will the parade of drummers *advance* to Park Square?

- 5 Those students who want to *advance* the idea of a school appreciation day are themselves appreciated!



**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.

1 Gray whales **migrate** between California and Mexico.

2 The horse **cantered**, moving between a trot and a gallop.

3 It's so cold that I must **retreat** indoors.

4 Do not **shuffle** your feet along the new wood floors.

5 Our winning team will **advance** to the finals.

6 When I started the drill, the cat **bolted** for the door.

7 Please **conduct** yourself properly when our visitors are here.

8 **Elevate** the child so that he can reach the table.

9 The spy tried to **evade** being caught.

10 Earth **rotates** on its axis each day.

WORD LIST

migrate

elevate

shuffle

retreat

bolt

evade

advance

canter

rotate

conduct



Process the Meanings

WORD LIST

migrate

elevate

shuffle

retreat

bolt

evade

advance

canter

rotate

conduct

Complete the Groups Choose the best vocabulary word to go in each group.

1 dash rush _____

2 cycle spin _____

3 trot gallop _____

4 lift raise _____

5 drag feet slide _____

6 commute travel _____

Complete the Paragraph Choose the vocabulary word that best completes each sentence in the paragraph. Do not repeat any of the words that you used above.

The Continental soldier hid behind a tree as he tried to

7 _____ enemy bullets. The Redcoats

continued their **8** _____ across the field.

Even though the Americans were outnumbered, they would

not **9** _____. They would always

10 _____ themselves with bravery and

pride throughout the war.



Apply What You've Learned

Demonstrate Word Knowledge Answer the questions.

1 Why would you want to **advance** in school?

2 What might make a young child **bolt**?

3 In which place would you be willing to **conduct** a tour? Why?

4 What would make you want to **retreat**?

5 What would happen to you if you **rotated** quickly five times?

6 Would you ever want to **migrate**? Why or why not?

7 Which animals would never **canter**? Why?

8 In a large store, what could **elevate** people or merchandise?

9 How could you **evade** a bad storm?

10 When is someone likely to **shuffle** his or her feet?



Write It! Suppose you discovered a secret passage and decided to follow it. Write about what happened and where you went. Use as many words from the Word List in Part 3 as you can.

PART
4

Review

for
Word
Wisdom

Sort by Syllables Say each word to yourself. Count the syllables. Then write the word in the correct column. Cross the words off the list as you work. When you are finished, circle every word that has the root *port*, *pan*, *pass*, or *mot*.

WORD LIST

impassable

barrier

hazard

pace

trek

accompany

expedition

porter

mobile

grueling

locomotion

transport

promote

expand

passage

trespass

surpass

import

export

portable

migrate

elevate

shuffle

retreat

bolt

evade

advance

canter

rotate

conduct

**One
Syllable**

**Two
Syllables**

**Three
Syllables**

**Four
Syllables**

Choose the Best Words Decide which vocabulary word could best replace the boldfaced word or words in each sentence. Write the letter of your choice on the line.

- ___ **1** A switch allowed the patient to **raise** the head or foot of her bed.
a. expand b. export c. elevate d. shuffle
- ___ **2** To keep automobiles off the beach, the town put up **some things that block the way**.
a. hazards b. porters c. passages d. barriers
- ___ **3** The heat made chopping firewood **difficult** work.
a. grueling b. portable c. mobile d. impassable
- ___ **4** To keep from slipping on the wet floor, we held onto the handrail as we **dragged our feet** down the hall.
a. bolted b. retreated c. shuffled d. cantered
- ___ **5** My friend agreed to **go with** me to the mall.
a. transport b. accompany c. promote d. import
- ___ **6** Thomas Jefferson approved the **trip of discovery** through the unknown areas of the Northwest.
a. advance b. expedition c. retreat d. pace
- ___ **7** The floodwaters made many of the roads **impossible to travel across**.
a. portable b. grueling c. mobile d. impassable
- ___ **8** After dinner, we **went back** to the living room and continued watching the football game on TV.
a. surpassed b. shuffled c. retreated d. advanced
- ___ **9** It is important to dress properly to **take a long difficult journey** in the mountains.
a. trek b. promote c. canter d. rotate
- ___ **10** The bird watchers **moved forward** slowly through the forest so that they would not frighten away the rare woodpecker.
a. elevated b. exported c. advanced d. transported

Taking Vocabulary Tests



TEST-TAKING STRATEGY

When you take a vocabulary test, be sure you understand what the directions ask you to do. Some vocabulary tests use analogies. Think about how the two words in the first part of the analogy are related. Then decide which words in the other part are related in the same way. Don't be tricked by words that make sense but do not show the same relationship.

Sample:

Drop is to lower as elevate is to ____.

- (A) find
- (B) trap
- (C) sink
- (D) raise

Practice Test Fill in the letter of the answer choice that correctly completes the analogy.

- 1** Climb is to ladder as rotate is to ____.
(A) car
(B) ski
(C) swimming pool
(D) merry-go-round
- 2** Speed is to road as pace is to ____.
(A) snail
(B) hiker
(C) trail
(D) pack
- 3** Bird is to migrate as person is to ____.
(A) travel
(B) glasses
(C) plane
(D) boat
- 4** Danger is to fire as hazard is to ____.
(A) food
(B) kitten
(C) ice
(D) laugh
- 5** Crawl is to slow as bolt is to ____.
(A) run
(B) fast
(C) horse
(D) lightning
- 6** Fun is to party as grueling is to ____.
(A) hard
(B) easy
(C) work
(D) play
- 7** Continue is to go ahead as retreat is to ____.
(A) go faster
(B) go back
(C) turn off
(D) look back
- 8** Bark is to dog as canter is to ____.
(A) fish
(B) horse
(C) turtle
(D) bird
- 9** Doorway is to enter as barrier is to ____.
(A) block
(B) invite
(C) pay
(D) hurry
- 10** Seek is to friend as evade is to ____.
(A) jungle
(B) kitten
(C) country
(D) enemy

Build

New

Words

Use Suffixes to Change Verbs to Nouns

The suffixes *-ion* and *-ation* mean “the act of” and change a verb to a noun. Complete the chart. Check the spellings and meanings in a dictionary.

Verb	Noun with <i>-ion</i> or <i>-ation</i>	Meaning
1 rotate		
2 transport		
3 migrate		
4 elevate		
5 promote		

Write a sentence using each noun from the chart.

- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____



Speak It! Tell about a barrier you once overcame and how you did it. Use several vocabulary words from this unit.