

Parent Guide to the Standards

Context Clues for Understanding Words

Today's Standard

5.L.4a - Use context (e.g., cause/effect relationships and comparisons in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Understanding unknown words in a story by looking at the sentences around them.; Using context clues to figure out the meaning of new vocabulary in science textbooks.; Deciphering the meaning of a word in a historical document by comparing it to other words in the same paragraph.

Today I Learned

Today we learned how to use clues in a sentence to figure out what a new word means. This helps us understand stories better.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes kids think the clues tell them exactly what the word means, but that's not always true. They also might think the first meaning they think of is right, but they should check the sentence again.

Quiz Me

- What are context clues?
- How do context clues help us?
- Can context clues give us exact meanings?
- Should we use just one clue to understand a word?
- Why is it important to check the sentence again?

Help Me

Using clues in a sentence helps us understand new words. For example, if a sentence says, 'The sun was scorching, so we stayed in the shade,' the word 'scorching' means very hot because staying in the shade helps us stay cool.