

Context Clues for Word Meaning

Today's Standard

9-10.L.4a - Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Interpreting unfamiliar words in novels by using surrounding text.; Deciphering technical jargon in scientific articles.; Understanding historical documents with archaic language.; Comprehending vocabulary in standardized tests.; Navigating complex instructions in user manuals.

Today I Learned

Today we learned how to use context clues to understand new words. We look at the words around an unknown word to figure out what it means.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Sometimes kids think context clues are only in the same sentence as the new word. They might also think the first meaning they guess is always right. It's important to check other sentences and use a dictionary.

Quiz Me

- What is a context clue?
- How can context clues help you?
- Where can you find context clues?
- What should you do if you're not sure about a word's meaning?
- Why is it important to look at more than one sentence?

Help Me

When you read and find a word you don't know, look at the other words around it. They can help you understand what the new word means. For example, if you read 'The sky was murky, or cloudy and dark,' the words 'cloudy and dark' help you understand 'murky'.