Word Detectives

Context clues are hints that the author gives to help define a word you don't know. The clue may appear in the same sentence as the word you don't know or in a nearby sentence.

This is a useful and important strategy because it helps you understand what you are reading, and it allows you to easily learn new vocabulary.

Types of context clues

Synonym: A word or group of words that has the same meaning as the unknown word can be found in the sentence. Example: My little brother is **gaunt**—just so thin and bony! Definition:	**Antonym:** A word or group of words that has the opposite meaning of the unknown word can be found in the sentence. Example: Though some students are **aloof**, others pay attention to everything. Definition:
Explanation: The unknown word is explained within the sentence. Example: My friend was so **forlorn** when her dog died that she cried for a week. Definition:	**Example:** Specific examples in the sentence help define the term. Example: **Commercial vehicles**, such as trucks, buses, and taxis with paid drivers, can all be found on the road. Definition:

Read each sentence. Underline the part of the sentence that helps you find the meaning, and then write a definition for the word in bold. Use context clues!

1. The man who used to be very **lax** with the rules now follows all the laws.

   Definition:

2. The **comestibles**, including a huge pizza, a birthday cake, chocolate-covered peanuts, and tasty hot dogs, were all in the fridge before my birthday party.

   Definition:

3. She was so **erratic** that she would be in a great mood one minute and crying the next. You never could predict the way she'd act.

   Definition:

4. The **brawl**, or fight, on the playground got both kids sent to the principal.

   Definition: