HAKILLO KIDS · TEACHER GUIDE · COMMON CORE EDITION · LANGUAGE ARTS · GRADE 6 · LESSON 1

Context Clues and Academic Words



COMMON CORE
L.6.4.a, L.6.4.c, L.6.6

VIDEO LENGTH
3:38 · Virginia SOL edition also available

WATCH THE LESSON FREE
hakillokids.org/language-arts/grade-6#L6-01

PRACTICE ONLINE
learn.hakillokids.org · videos stop for each question, scored automatically

L.6.4.a Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

L.6.4.c Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.

L.6.6 Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

Materials: Short passages with a few unfamiliar words, sticky notes, highlighters.

Students will

- Use the sentence around a word to figure out its meaning.
- Choose the right meaning of a multiple-meaning word.
- Use clue words like so and because to infer meaning.
- Know the academic words analyze, evidence and summarize.

Key words

context	the words and sentences around a word
context clue	a hint near a word that shows what it means
multiple-meaning word	a word with more than one meaning, like pitch
analyze, evidence, summarize	look closely at parts; facts that prove; tell the main points

Before the video 2 minutes

Write: "The cave was frigid, so we wore our warmest coats." Ask: "What could frigid mean? Which words helped you?"

What happens in the video

0:00	Welcome and today's goal: context clues and academic words
0:20	Context: the words around a hard word
0:35	Multiple meanings: pitch and pitcher
0:52	Clue words: frigid means very cold
1:08	Academic words: analyze, evidence, summarize
1:27	Spot the mistake: don't skip the page, read the context
1:46	Your turn! Students answer during each pause (see below)
3:19	Recap and goodbye

Spot the mistake at 1:27

> **Sam:** I don't know the word, so I'll just skip the whole page!
> **Ivy:** Hmm... is there a better way?
> **Mia:** Read the sentence around it! The clues usually tell you what it means.
> **Sam:** Oops! Use the context.

- Ask: “What could Sam do instead of skipping the page?” (Read the sentence around the word.)
- Model it: read a sentence with a hard word and think aloud about the clues.
- Students list two clues they used.

Your-turn pauses students answer out loud, then the characters give the answer

TIME	QUESTION	ANSWER IN THE VIDEO
1:47	The bat flew out of the dark cave. Does bat mean an animal, or a baseball bat?	An animal! It flew out of a cave.
2:02	The trail was so narrow that we walked in a single line. Does narrow mean thin, or wide?	Thin! We had to walk in one line.
2:18	Which word means facts that prove something? Evidence, or summary?	Evidence!
2:31	He was famished, because he had skipped lunch. Does famished mean very hungry, or very sleepy?	Very hungry! He skipped lunch.
2:47	In the sentence, the room was so dim we needed a lamp, which clue helps most? Needed a lamp, or the room?	Needed a lamp! Dim must mean not bright.
3:04	Analyze the poem. Does analyze mean look closely at the parts, or read it fast?	Look closely at the parts!

Tip: pause the video a little longer on any question your class finds hard, and ask a student to explain how they know.

After the video: talk about it

1. Which kind of clue helps you most: an example, a contrast or a cause?
2. How does the sentence tell you which meaning of a word fits?
3. Where have you seen the word evidence in other subjects?

Go further

Word detectives: students collect three unfamiliar words from a book, write the sentence, guess the meaning from context, then check a dictionary.

Answer key for the practice page

1. An animal (it flew out of a cave).
2. Thin, not wide.
3. Very hungry; the clue is "skipped lunch."
4. Not bright (darkish).
5. Evidence
6. Answers vary; the clue explains the word.

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Context Clues and Academic Words

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. **The bat flew out of the dark cave. Does bat mean an animal or a baseball bat?**

   Answer: _____

2. **The trail was so narrow that we walked in a single line. What does narrow mean?**

   Answer: _____

3. **He was famished because he had skipped lunch. What does famished mean? Which words helped?**

   Answer: _____

4. **The room was so dim that we needed a lamp. What does dim mean?**

   Answer: _____

5. **Which academic word means facts that prove something: evidence or summary?**

   Answer: _____

6. **Write a sentence with a hard word and a clue that shows what it means. Underline the clue.**

   Answer: _____

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