

Context Clues

When you come across an unfamiliar word, you can often determine its meaning by looking for **context clues**. Sometimes the sentence that contains the unfamiliar word will also contain a synonym for it. Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning. For example, read the following sentence:

If he were cocky like his brother, then Jerry might have been conceited enough to assume that he would be elected Prom King.

You can determine from the context that *cocky* is similar in meaning to *conceited*; therefore you can infer that *cocky* means "arrogant, conceited, or brashly self-confident."

Identify Synonym Context Clues Read the following sentences. Look at the underlined words from "Checkouts." Circle the synonym context clues that help you determine the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence. Then write the meaning on the lines provided.

1. Karin wanted to articulate her feelings, but she was too shy to express herself, even in writing.

Meaning: _____

2. The disheveled pile of books in the faculty room annoyed the teacher, who had a horror of anything untidy.

Meaning: _____

3. Harry was in ecstasy after meeting his boyhood hero; he had never known such a thrill.

Meaning: _____

4. Shards of glass washed up on the beach; we waded in tennis shoes to avoid getting cut on the jagged pieces.

Meaning: _____

5. Bombarded with questions, the harried teacher became impatient and cross.

Meaning: _____
