

MODULE FOR CONTEXT ANALYSIS DEV-065

Generalization

This module will provide the student with the ability to learn new words by utilizing context analysis.

Performance Objective

At the end of this module, the student should be able to define from context with 80% accuracy in a test of 50 sentences the unfamiliar word.

Enabling Objectives:

At the completion of this module, the student should be able to:

1. Define what is meant by the context of a word.
2. List 5 context clues which can reveal the meaning of unfamiliar words:
 - a) Direct definition
 - b) Indirect definition
 - c) Explanation by examples
 - d) Personal experience
 - e) Inference

The signal words which will be considered are as follows:

1. Signal words for direct definition:
“is” “that is” “meaning”
2. Signal words for comparison/contrast:
although despite while yet
nevertheless even though however but rather

Directions: Read the paragraph below to figure out what a *Pali* is. You will see that you can do this from understanding the **context** (the words surrounding it).

THE PALI

Several years ago I saw a pali for the first time. Pali is a Hawaiian word that everyone in the islands uses. The first pali I saw was very high. It was a pali near Honolulu that has great historical significance. They call it simply “The Pali”. On this pali, King Kamshameha won a great victory. He trapped an enemy army at the top and drove it off the pali. The wind blows so hard up the face of the pali that you can hardly approach the edge. A local joke is that one day a despondent lover jumped off the pali and the wind held him up against the side of the pali until the fire department could come and rescue him.

Directions: Figure out the meaning of each underlined word from its context. Write the meaning on the line below. Remember to notice the punctuation clues.

1. Biologists use an elaborate taxonomy (classification system) to categorize animals and plants.
2. Scientists attempt to be objective – report what is factual and real - by examining *all* of the evidence.
3. Syntax (grammar) refers to the rules used to put words together to create phrases and sentences.
4. One branch of linguistic inquiry is semantics – the science of meaning in language.
5. The psychological significance of a tic, such as eye blinking, is covert, or concealed, to the person who has the tic.
6. On the other hand, the interpretations to be placed on symptoms of personality disorders are overt (not hidden) to psychiatrists.
7. When people receive credit cards, it is explicit, or clearly stated, in the contracts they sign that they will pay for any merchandise or services they receive from using the cards.

Exercise 1

Restatement *with* Punctuation

1. taxonomy	
2. objective	
3. syntax	
4. semantics	
5. covert	
6. overt	
7. explicit	

Directions: Figure out the meaning of each underlined word from its context. Write the meaning on the line below. Remember to notice the way each word is defined so it seems circular.

Example:

1. The Sears Building in Chicago is now the world's tallest edifice.

The Sears Building is now the world's tallest building (edifice).

2. He surreptitiously packed his clothing and secretly slipped away; his absence was not noticed for nearly two days.

3. She was admired for her impeccable manners as well as her faultless taste in clothing.

4. It is one thing to have influence in high places, but quite another to have prestige in places of power as well as with common people.

5. The offspring of one insect can number in the thousands, but most insects' progeny do not survive for long.

6. It is important for a speaker to establish good rapport with the audience, because the speaker and the audience will enjoy the experience more if a warm relationship has been developed.

7. The general practitioner advised them that their elderly mother should be taken to a doctor who specializes in geriatrics.

Directions: Figure out the meaning of each underlined word from its context. Write the meaning on the line below. Remember to notice the signal words which show that the word you do not know is the opposite in meaning to the word you do know.

1. Phil started the long-distance race full of strength, but after about eight miles he was enervated by the hot sun and had to drop out.
-

2. Both of them stood trial, but one was found guilty and sent to prison while the other was acquitted.
-

3. It was the woman's grim responsibility to decide if her husband's body should be cremated or interred.
-

4. Alex was making so little money selling encyclopedias from door to door that he decided to search for more lucrative employment.
-

5. It is easier to present a speech for which one is completely prepared rather than to give a speech extemporaneously.
-

6. The brothers' reactions to having stolen the car were quite different; one was contrite while the other was not sorry in the least.
-

7. Although at first we thought he was guilty, his alibi soon exonerated him and we moved on to question other suspects.
-

Directions: Figure out the meaning of each underlined word from its context. Write the meaning on the line below. Remember to notice the idea of the whole sentence to see what the unknown word **MUST** mean in order to make sense in the context.

1. Ben’s automobile caught fire upon impact; fortunately he was able to extricate himself from it before it exploded.
-

2. Maybe I’m foolish, but I was so incensed that Fred didn’t invite me to his party that I haven’t spoken to him in a month.
-

3. We drove out of our way to traverse the river by ferry rather than by bridge.
-

4. The treasurer was put under close observation, as it was suspected she had plans to abscond with the company’s funds.
-

5. She so coveted youth and beauty that she went to Switzerland and had her face lifted.
-

6. One overhead expense of all large offices is the cost of pencils, paper, and pens that are pilfered by employees for their personal use.
-

7. Although our football players had lost six games in a row, we admired them because their losses did not deter them from playing their very best.
-

8. The Red Cross volunteer tried to alleviate the suffering of Xenia’s tornado victims.
-

9. It is the job of parents to attempt to inculcate the values of society in their children so that the children will understand what kind of behavior will be expected of them in life.
-

