

Vocabulary

Grade 5 Unit 1: Personal Narratives: Let Me Tell You a Story





Context Clues



Context clues are the other words in a sentence and other sentences in a paragraph that help us determine the meaning of an unknown word.

Let's read this excerpt from "The First Real San Giving Day":

There we were: me and a twenty-one-pound turkey, lying on the pavement in the middle of a four-lane road just as the traffic light turned green and cars began honking incessantly.

To determine the meaning of the word incessantly, we can look at other words in the sentence and other sentences in the paragraph. These are called context clues.

Let's read it again:

There we were: me and a twenty-one-pound turkey, *lying on the pavement* in the *middle of a four-lane road* just as the *traffic light turned green* and cars began honking **incessantly**.

Based on our knowledge of the phrases *lying on the* pavement, in the middle of the road, and the light turned green, we can assume that **incessantly** means without stopping.

If you drop a turkey in the middle of the road when the light turns green, cars are going to honk non-stop!



Let's read another sentence from the personal narrative:

I took off my T-shirt and wrapped it around the turkey like I was **swaddling** a baby.

To determine the meaning of the word **swaddling**, we can look at other words in the sentence. These are context clues.

Now, let's read it again:

I took off my T-shirt and wrapped it around the turkey like I was swaddling a baby.

Based on your knowledge of the phrase wrapped it like a baby, what do you think swaddling means?

Have you seen someone wrap a baby in a blanket?

Context Clues

Let's Try It Together!

Put up one finger if you think **swaddling** means wrapping up tightly.

Put up two fingers if you think **swaddling** means wrapping up loosely.

Context Clues Let's Try It Together!

Turn to a partner and discuss the context clues you used to determine that **swaddling** means *wrapping up tightly*.

Now you try one with a partner. Read the excerpt:

She looked up at me blankly, and I realized she couldn't understand "Thanksgiving" in my properly pronounced English. So I **blurted** it out the way most Cubans pronounced it, as if it were the name of a saint, "San Giving, Abuela, San Giving."

Context Clues Let's Try It Together!

Based on context clues, do you think the word **blurted** means:

said suddenly

said softly

Did you remember the steps?

- 1. Look at the other words in the sentence and the other sentences in the paragraph.
- 2. Use your understanding of familiar words and phrases.

looked at me blankly

She couldn't understand.

3. Determine the meaning of the unknown word. *said suddenly*



Read the following excerpt:

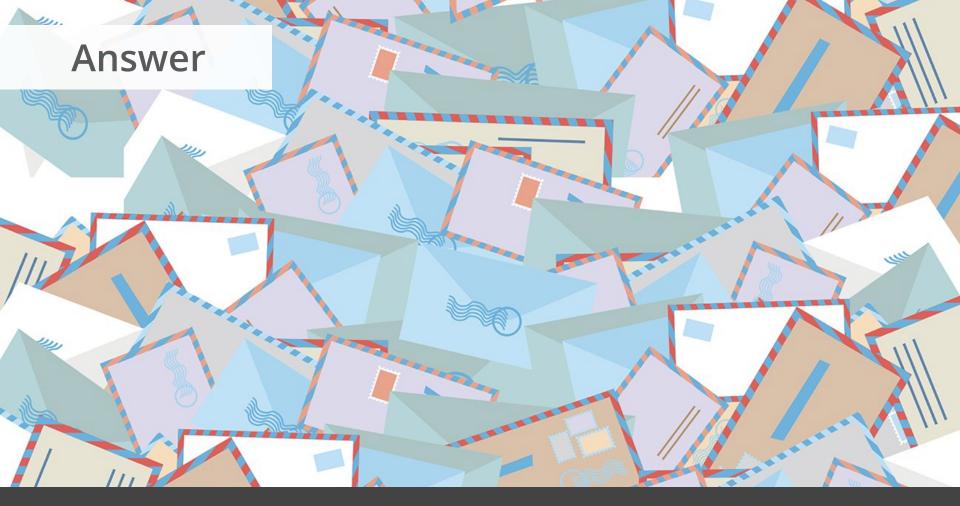
She slept on it for two days before making a decision: "Maybe you're right. Maybe we'll try San Giving how you say," she **conceded**, with one condition.

Look for context clues to help determine the meaning of the word **conceded**.

Write your answer to the following questions:

Based on the context clues, what do you think conceded means?

What context clues did you use?



Amplify CKLA 22

Context Clues Answer

Conceded means admitted.

The context clues are *slept on it for two days* and *maybe...with one condition.*