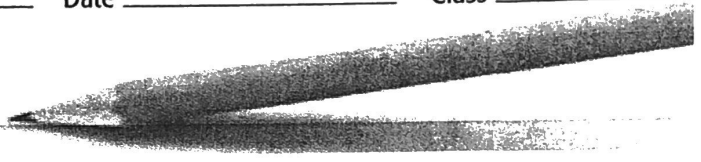




Vocabulary Power



Lesson 16 Reading Skills

Learning from Context: Examples

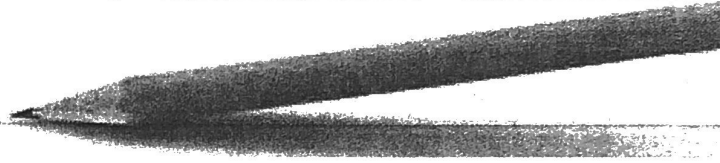
Context, or the environment in which a word appears, can offer many clues to the meaning of an unknown word. One technique is to look for examples of the unknown word that can give a hint about the meaning of the word. For example, imagine that a paragraph describes zebras, pigs, and tigers as quadrupeds and states that humans, insects, and spiders are not quadrupeds. You can use the context clue of examples to figure out that *quadruped* probably means "four-legged." This lesson will give you practice in using examples to find the meanings of unfamiliar words.

EXERCISE

Read each sentence. Circle the examples that help you define the boldfaced word. Then, write a possible definition of the term on the line.

1. Volunteers for the clean-up crew were as **sparse** as hen's teeth, fish fur, or pig feathers! *Sparse* probably means _____.
2. The first **malicious** rumor she spread was that I had cheated on the exam; then, she charged that I had used a computer to change my grade! *Malicious* probably means _____.
3. The **wanton** destruction caused by such famous villains as Ghengis Khan and Attila the Hun has gone down as the worst in history. *Wanton* probably means _____.
4. The hurricane in Japan was just the latest in a long series of **cataclysms**, including a flood, a volcanic eruption, and an earthquake. *Cataclysm* probably means _____.
5. Our team's most **formidable** opponents in the race for the Super Bowl were the Denver Broncos, the San Francisco Forty-Niners, and the Green Bay Packers. *Formidable* probably means _____.
6. For the North, the **nadir** of the Civil War was, no doubt, the crushing defeats at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville in 1862 and 1863, respectively. *Nadir* probably means _____.
7. Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush were Bill Clinton's **predecessors** in the White House. *Predecessor* probably means _____.
8. Among the greatest **accolades** authors can receive are the Nobel Prize for Literature, the Pulitzer Prize, and the National Book Award. *Accolade* probably means _____.
9. The **opulent** resort featured lavish suites, first-class entertainment and meals, a half-dozen swimming pools, and, not surprisingly, sky-high prices. *Opulent* probably means _____.
10. Tourists love Vermont's **picturesque** country villages, old white churches, and small dairy farms with black-and-white Holstein cows. *Picturesque* probably means _____.

Vocabulary Power



Review: Unit 4

EXERCISE

Circle the letter of the word that can replace the word or words in italics.

1. Corey's uncle is one of the most *narrow-minded* people I've ever had the displeasure to meet.
 a. resilient b. hidebound c. dauntless d. demure
2. Her *natural dislike* for snakes was made worse when her sister was bitten by a copperhead while on a camping trip.
 a. antibiotic b. antithesis c. antipathy d. candor
3. Everyone knew Sean was *able to bounce back*, but we were all amazed at how quickly he recovered from the accident.
 a. dauntless b. volatile c. sagacious d. resilient
4. At first, the governor's support for the prison reform was *unsure*, but after a few months, her enthusiasm for it increased.
 a. tentative b. resilient c. hidebound d. dauntless
5. Being a former soldier, he was a(n) *strong supporter* of a powerful military.
 a. proponent b. counterweight c. contraband d. antithesis
6. The *uproar* created in the department by the surprise announcement affected morale.
 a. equanimity b. pall c. tumult d. fortitude
7. The chimp looked so ridiculous in the ballerina costume that I couldn't *hold back* my laughter.
 a. abhor b. suppress c. laud d. oppugn
8. "Must you always *force* your way into the conversation? When we want your opinion, we'll ask for it!"
 a. oppugn b. obstruct c. obtrude d. patronize
9. Through her skill and speed, the magician was able to *deceive* the crowd into thinking the motorcycles had disappeared.
 a. beguile b. laud c. suppress d. abhor
10. One of my sisters is quite *shy*, but the other one is a big show-off.
 a. contradictory b. sagacious c. volatile d. demure