

Context Clues

1.D.3.a

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If you don't know what the word reluctant means, you won't be able to figure it out from the word by itself. However, if you read the sentence—

Meryl was reluctant to go to the party, so she made up an excuse.

—you can figure out that reluctant means undecided or not willing.

Context clues come from how a word is used and the other words around it.

Solve Don't stop at an unknown word. Use the Fix-up strategies *Read Ahead* and *Read Again* to search for context clues. Look for words that the author might use to explain the word, such as *for example*, *such as*, *in other words*, or *that is*.

Some words have **multiple meanings**. Words like spot, place, and part change meanings when they are used in different ways. You need to use context clues to figure out which meaning is correct.

Example

In these sentences from "Peace Maker," the word kidnapped means—

Both sides took prisoners. In fact, an Englishman kidnapped Pocahontas.

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| <p>(A) forgot.</p> <p>(B) captured.</p> | <p>(C) liked.</p> <p>(D) found.</p> |
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DISCUSS

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| <p>(A) No one <i>forgot</i> Pocahontas. The sentences near the word <u>kidnapped</u> tell you what the Englishman did with her.</p> <p>(B) Based on the first sentence, you can guess that Pocahontas was a prisoner. Prisoners are <i>captured</i>.</p> | <p>(C) If you follow the context of the story, you can tell that <i>liked</i> is not what <u>kidnapped</u> means.</p> <p>(D) The passage doesn't talk about <i>finding</i> Pocahontas. This is an unlikely choice.</p> |
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Connections There are many different meanings for the word *play*. Can you think of two of them? Write a sentence for each meaning.