Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Word Detective Club

Use clues to crack word meanings!

About 30 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

Context Clues in One Sentence

A **context** clue is a hint in the same **sentence** that helps you guess an unknown **word**.

- A **definition** clue tells the meaning right away: exhausted, or very tired.
- A **synonym** clue uses a word with almost the same meaning.
- An **antonym** clue uses an opposite with but, unlike, or however.
- An **example** clue lists examples with like, such as, or for example.



Task A

/4

Explain the difference for each pair. Use the signal words to help. Start with: They are different because...

synonym clue vs **antonym clue**

The difference is...

.....

.....

definition clue vs **example clue**

The difference is...

.....

.....

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Why Words Trick Us

Think about causes and fixes for hard words.

Key words

context: words around an unknown word

synonym: a word with almost the same meaning

definition: what a word means

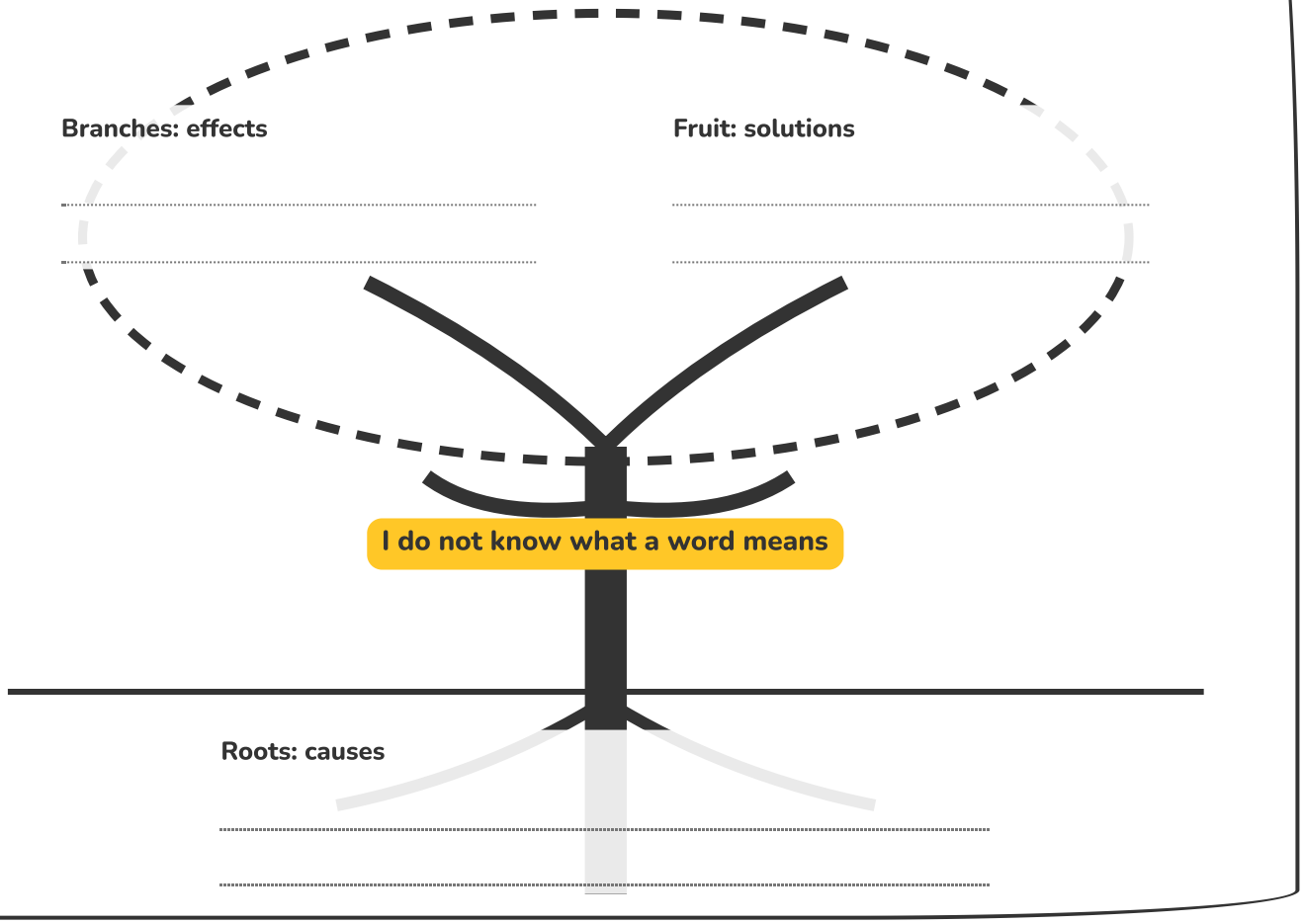
clue: a hint that helps you guess

antonym: a word with the opposite meaning

example: something that shows what a word means

Task B

Fill the tree about hard words. Add one cause, one effect, and one fix of your own.



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Test the Clues

Read a story and fix mistakes about clues.

The Lost Map Hike

1. On Saturday morning, two cousins went for a hike on a dusty trail. After one mile, they felt exhausted, or very, very tired, and sat on a flat rock to rest. Soon the sky turned gloomy, dark and cloudy, so they pulled on light jackets and drank cold water.
2. Soon they heard a rustle in the bushes. A small stray dog ran out. The dog looked famished. It ate everything in sight and licked every crumb, so the cousins shared more crackers and gave it water from a cup.
3. Further on, they found a small wooden box under a tall tree. Inside was a map that felt fragile. It would tear very easily, so they held it with care. Unlike the rough, bumpy trail, the way back felt smooth and easy, and they hurried home to show the map.

Task C

/2

Spot what is wrong in each claim and fix it using a clue from the passage.



Student A

In paragraph 1, exhausted means full of energy because the cousins kept hiking.

What mistake did Student A make? Write the correct fact.



Student B

In paragraph 3, unlike means the same as, so smooth means the same as rough.

What mistake did Student B make? Write the correct fact.

Task D

/2

Use what it says plus what you know to infer the meaning. Cite the paragraph.

The dog looked famished. It ate everything in sight. The map felt fragile. It would tear very easily.

Question	It says...	I say...	And so...
In paragraph 2, what does **famished** mean?	It ate everything in sight	A very hungry animal eats a lot	Famished means very hungry
In paragraph 3, what does **fragile** mean?			

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Follow Detective Steps

Practice the steps and make your own clue.

Task E

/2

Fill the missing boxes to show the detective steps in order.

1. Underline the unknown word
2. _____
3. Look for clues nearby
4. _____
5. Put your guess back to check sense

Task F

Draw and write one sentence with a strong clue for your word.

Draw a detective finding a hard word and write a sentence that gives a clue to its meaning

Draw here

Write here

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A Reading Morning

Order events and show how you grew.

Task 6

/2

Write the letter for each event next to the right time on the line.

A Check the guess in a dictionary

B Find an unknown word on a sign

9:00 a.m. Learn what context means

9:10 a.m. ☐ _____

9:20 a.m. Use nearby clues to guess

9:35 a.m. ☐ _____

9:45 a.m. Use the new word in writing

Task H

Show how your ideas about clues changed. Write two short sentences.

Using context clues

I used to think...

.....

.....

.....

.....

➜

Now I think...

.....

.....

.....

.....

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can use sentence clues to guess a word meaning. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can tell synonym and antonym clues apart. ☹ 😐 ☺

I can check that my guess makes sense. ☹ 😐 ☺

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Answer sheet: Word Detective Club

Task A

1. They are different because a synonym clue uses a word with the same meaning, but an antonym clue uses an opposite meaning with but or unlike.
2. They are different because a definition clue tells the meaning directly, but an example clue shows examples with like or such as.

Task B

Answers will vary, e.g. causes: I skip the rest of the sentence; effects: I do not understand the sentence; solutions: Reread and look for a clue word

Task C

1. Student A: Wrong clue use. The clue "or very, very tired" shows that exhausted means very tired.
2. Student B: Wrong signal word. Unlike signals an opposite, so smooth means the opposite of rough.

Task D

1. Famished means very hungry
2. Fragile means something that breaks or tears easily

Task E

1. Underline the unknown word
2. Reread the sentence with the word
3. Look for clues nearby
4. Guess the meaning
5. Put your guess back to check sense

Task F

Answers will vary.

Task G

A: 9:35 a.m. – Check the guess in a dictionary
B: 9:10 a.m. – Find an unknown word on a sign

Task H

Answers will vary.

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