


[VOCABULARY]


WORDS

Understanding New Vocabulary Words



CACC Training Aid 3-T-3
Last modified 6SEP04

[Make a Personal Word List]



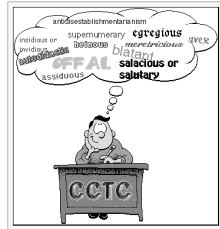
- Each time you do not know a word's meaning
- When words are introduced in books or on TV or radio or in class
- Look up the definition and make a vocabulary card

[Vocabulary Card]

The word	Meaning of the word in your own language
A sentence using the word properly	A picture or image that will help you remember the meaning of the word

Use Books & Other Resources

- Know the correct way to use a dictionary and thesaurus
- Have access to these resources at your fingertips



Know the Roots

- Greek and Latin roots and prefixes and suffixes are very important parts of words and can give important clues as to meaning



For Instance...

Prefix/Suffix	Meaning	English Words
ad-	to	addict
-al	relating to	maternal
ambi-	both	ambidextrous
ante-	before	antecedent
anti-	against	antifreeze

Here's More

-arium	place of	aquarium
auto-	self	autobiography
centi-	hundred	centimeter
circum-	around	circumvent
con-	with	concert
de-	from/down	depart

And Even More...

Root	Meaning	English Words
arch	ancient	archetype
aster/astra	star	astronomy
audi	hear	audible
bene	good/well	benefit
bio	life	biology

There are literally hundred like this...

olig	few	oligarchy
op/oper	work	operation
osteo	bone	osteoporosis
path	feeling	sympathy
ped	child	pediatrics
phil	love	philosophy

Using Context Clues

- What does “use context clues mean”? - using words around an unfamiliar word to help understand the unfamiliar word’s meaning
- There are several types of context clues described on the next slides

Antonym or Contrast Clue

- Phrases or words that indicate opposite
- **but, in contrast, however, instead of, unlike, yet**
- **Example:** Unlike his *quiet and low key* family, Brad is *garrulous*.

Definition or Example Clue

- Phrases or words that define or explain
- **is defined as, means, the term, [a term in boldface or italics] set off with commas**
- **Example:** *Sedentary* individuals, people who are not very active, often have diminished health.

General Knowledge

- The meaning is derived from the experience and background knowledge of the reader; "common sense" and logic.
- **the information may be something basically familiar to you**
- Example: Lourdes is always sucking up to the boss, even in front of others. That *sycophant* just doesn't care what others think of her behavior.

Restatement or Synonym Clue

- Another word or phrase with the same or a similar meaning is used.
- **in other word, that is, also known as, sometimes called, or**
- **Example:** The *dromedary*, commonly called a camel, stores fat in its hump.

Practice Context Clues

- Read each sentence on the following slides and write down the closest meaning type of context clue (contrast/antonym, restatement/synonym, example or general knowledge) that helps you define the meaning of the key term.

Example 1

- Joan loves to buy **exotic** foods: vegetables and herbs from China, spices from India, olives from Greece, and cheeses from France.

- **Expensive**
- **Seasonings**
- **Rare**
- **from other places**

ANSWER

FROM OTHER PLACES

How did we know?

Example 2

Emotionally disturbed people may be troubled by **morbid** thoughts. For instance, they may often think about suicide or murder.

- **Disturbing**
- **dealing with death**
- **psychologically ill**
- **scary**

ANSWER 2

- DEALING WITH DEATH

- How did you know?

EXAMPLE 3

At first, the surgery seemed to be successful. But several hours later, the patient's condition began to **deteriorate**, and it continued to worsen over the next few days.

- **Stabilize**
- **surprise everyone**
- **Change**
- **decay or decline**

ANSWER 3

- DECAY OR DECLINE

- What gave us the clue?

EXAMPLE 4

In Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the *miserly* Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by three spirits who changed him into a generous man.

- Cheapskate
- single and elderly
- Unhappy
- wealthy

ANSWER 4

CHEAPSKATE

What if you did not know what a cheapskate was? What clue could you use to help you determine its meaning?

EXAMPLE 5

Raul is an *indulgent* father. For instance, he lets his daughter stay up as late as she likes and he never insists that she does her homework.

- lazy and caring
- stupid and kind
- strict and mean
- lenient and tolerant

[ANSWER 5]

- Lenient and tolerant
- How do we know?

[Let's go over the strategies again...]

- Personal word list
- Vocabulary card
- Books and resources such as dictionaries and thesauruses
- Context Clues
