

Big Five: Module #4: Handout #9

Six Types of Context Clues

Clue	Description	Sample sentence
Definition	Readers use the definition in the sentence to understand the unknown word.	Some spiders spin silk with tiny organs called <i>spinnerets</i> .
Example Illustration	Readers use an example or illustration to understand the unknown word.	Toads, frogs, and some birds are <i>predators</i> that hunt and eat spiders.
Contrast	Readers understand the unknown word because it's compared or contrasted with another word in the sentence.	Most spiders live for about one year, but <i>tarantulas</i> sometimes live for 20 years or more!
Logic	Readers think about the rest of the sentence to understand the unknown word.	An <i>exoskeleton</i> acts like a suit or armor to protect the spider.
Root Words Affixes	Readers use their knowledge of root words and affixes to figure out the unknown word.	People who are terrified of spiders have <i>arachnophobia</i> .
Grammar**	Readers use the word's function in the sentence or its part of speech to figure out the unknown word.	Most spiders <i>molt</i> five to ten times.

** Recall how you used GRAMMAR as a clue to the meaning of *horp* in Module #1.

Source: Tompkins, G.E. (2015). *Literacy in the early grades: A successful start for preK-4 readers and writers*. Boston: Pearson.