What kind of **context clues** can help you figure out the meaning of a word?

Definition/Synonym

Definition/Synonym – the meaning is given or a word with the same meaning is used.

Language signals: is; that means; which is; or; in other words; that is; in fact; i.e.
Punctuation signals: double hyphen --; parentheses ( )

*When you make soup, the first thing you have to do is **sauté** the onions, or cook them quickly in a little bit of oil.*

Antonym

Antonym – a word with the opposite meaning

Language signals: on the other hand; on the contrary; however; but; nevertheless; although; nonetheless.

*Suzanne was not a **boisterous** person. On the contrary, she was very shy and quiet.*

Example

Example – words or ideas that are examples of an unfamiliar word.

Language signals (after the word): for example; the following; such as; like; including, for instance, e.g.
Language signals (before the word): are some of the; are included in; are members of; are examples of.
Punctuation signal: a colon :

*There are many types of **crustaceans**, such as lobsters, crabs, and crayfish.*

General

General – other information in the text that helps clarify the word's meaning.

Language signals: consequently; as a result; therefore; in summary; in conclusion.

*Jeremy was always late. He never returned anyone's phone calls. He rarely said anything nice to anyone. In summary, he was a very **inconsiderate** man.*

Words in Motion