





Warm up


Tell students that learning how to understand the meaning of words from context is a way to make their reading easier and to make them feel more confident and less anxious about long texts.

Practice

- 1 You are going to read a text and use the context and other clues to understand unknown vocabulary.
 - Tell students they are going to read a text and use the context to understand unknown vocabulary.
- 2  You will be working in groups of three and you need to nominate yourselves as students A, B and C.
 - Put students in groups of three, and get them to nominate themselves as students A, B and C. Provide an example as needed.
- 3  Students A and B will work together on the text to find out the meaning of the highlighted words. Student C will observe and write down which techniques students A and B used to understand the unknown words.
 - Demonstrate these two roles to students as needed.
- 4  In your groups, discuss with the observer how you used the context to find out the meaning of the words.
 - You can add to students' ideas as you wish to in order to ensure all class members have an understanding of the techniques.
- 5  Work as a class and see if you all have approximately the same idea for the meanings of the unknown words.
 - Elicit the answers and discuss them as a class. Use this as an opportunity to check understanding and provide clarifications.

Suggested answers


Word	Meaning	Technique
<i>van</i>	A kind of vehicle, used for carrying goods	Using the comparison with cars and buses implied by <i>or</i>
<i>environmentally friendly</i>	Good for the environment	Identifying the use of this phrase as part of an example of how people can <i>save the environment</i>
<i>vehicles</i>	Cars	Identifying <i>electric vehicles</i> as an example of <i>environmentally friendly cars</i> (given by the phrase <i>such as</i>)
<i>green</i>	Related to the environment	Using the equivalence with the <i>future of the environment</i> implied by <i>but</i>
<i>eco warriors</i>	People who take action to protect the environment	Using the contrast (implied by <i>but</i>) with older people who are less interested in the environment
<i>initiatives</i>	Projects	Using the comparison (implied by <i>as well as</i>) between <i>local projects</i> and <i>global initiatives</i>

6  **Work in new groups of three and repeat the process for Exercises 3, 4 and 5, using the text below.**

Suggested answers

Word	Meaning	Technique
<i>facing</i>	having to deal with	Using with <i>problem</i> shows there is something to be addressed
<i>consuming</i>	eating/drinking	The context of food implies eating
<i>calories</i>	units of energy in food	<i>In addition</i> shows that the subject is still connected with food
<i>vast</i>	huge, very large	Used as an adjective to describe <i>majority</i> so linked to 'big'
<i>foodies</i>	people interested in food	Describing people who are health-conscious about food
<i>inroads</i>	noticeable effects	The context is progress, and the use of <i>but</i> emphasizes this

Reflect

7  **Make some notes on what you have learnt about using context to understand the meaning of new words. Discuss your ideas with three other students and make a poster of your ideas. Put the poster on the wall and encourage other groups to look at it and discuss the ideas.**

- Ask students to make some notes on what they have learnt.
- Ask them to make a poster of their ideas.
- Put the posters on the wall, look at each of them and provide feedback and advice as needed.