

from CANDIDE

COPY MASTER

Vocabulary Strategy

SYNONYMS AS CONTEXT CLUES

Often you can figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by examining its **context**, or surroundings. One type of context clue to look for is a **synonym**, or a word with a similar meaning. In the example from *Candide* that appears below, the context presents a synonym for the word civility, which means “politeness,” or “good manners.”

...they went up to Candide, and with the greatest civility and politeness invited him to dine with them.

unfamiliar word
synonym

Directions: Study the context of each sentence, looking for a word or phrase that is a synonym for the boldfaced word. Then underline that word or phrase.

1. Max can make the trip to visit his brother by plane, train, or another **conveyance**.

2. At age six, it became obvious that Cara had an **innate** musical talent; she was born with a beautiful singing voice.

3. Andre is a very **unruly** boy in class; our teacher says that he is a disorderly child.

4. Jayne’s **perseverance** in studying for her college entry exams shows her commitment to succeed.

5. In *The Odyssey*, Circe is an **alluring** enchantress who entices men and turns them into swine.

6. Lita is very **discreet** when she talks about her friends; she is careful not to say anything bad about anybody.

7. The **equestrian** statue in the center of our town shows a man on horseback.
