

# Vocabulary Strategy

## USING CONTEXT CLUES

A word's **context**—the words and sentences that surround it—often gives clues to the word's meaning. Considering the overall meaning of a sentence often allows you to make logical guesses about the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Related words can also help you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. For example, you might not know the vocabulary word *indefatigable*. However, if you recognize that the related word *fatigue* means “exhaustion” or “tiredness,” you could guess that *indefatigable* means “tireless.”

**Directions:** Write the meaning of each boldfaced word below. Check your work by consulting a dictionary.

1. Although it seems as if we're making progress, I'm afraid that the impression is **illusory**.  
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2. She wasn't afraid to let her feelings show, so her reaction to the bad news was **vociferous**.  
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3. There were **explicable** reasons for his decision, although I did not agree with all of them.  
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4. The stranger was **gesticulating** wildly in order to get my attention.  
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5. My aunt is naturally **acquisitive**, so her collection of books and magazines fills several rooms.  
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6. The celebrity's **infamy** was the result of a widely publicized scandal.  
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7. The new rule is not supposed to be **punitive**, although it will certainly create difficulties for many people.  
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8. The basketball team will probably be **incapacitated** by the loss of its star player.  
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