

# Vocabulary Strategy

## CONTRASTS AS CONTEXT CLUES

A **contrast**, or opposite, is a type of context clue. Terms like *but*, *however*, *unlike*, and *while* are clue words that point to a contrast. Other context clues may suggest the word's **nuance**, or shades of meaning. Notice the context clues in this sentence:

Some students learned classical subjects, studying literature, history, and Latin, **while** others received technical training.

The clue word *while* points to a contrast. The underlined word, *technical*, is an **antonym**, or opposite, of *classical*. The double-underlined text supplies the nuance of *classical*, suggesting topics that would be part of a classical education.

**A. Directions:** Use context clues to determine the antonym of each boldfaced word below.

1. Unlike most people on a fixed budget, the high cost of the luxury car was **inconsequential** to the wealthy man.

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2. Julia finished the first draft of her essay, but she felt it was **prosaic**, so she revised it to add interesting and imaginative details.

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3. While we had umbrellas, the rains began to **abate**, so we could run home without getting wet.

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**B. Directions:** List the clues that tell you the word's nuance.

4. The audience reacted to the speech with **indifference**, barely listening to the speaker and leaving as soon as it was over.

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5. The announcement sputtered **inaudibly** from the train's speaker, a thin voice lost in a noisy sea of static.

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6. The fair was filled with countless **diversions**, from challenging games to remarkable displays and performances.

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