



Lesson 10

# Context Clues: Synonyms and Antonyms

## STUDENT OBJECTIVES

- Use context clues to find the meaning of unknown words.
- Recognize and identify synonyms and antonyms in sentences.

## Additional Practice

### Synonym Clue

Justin was an exceptional musician. He could play many instruments remarkably well.

### Antonym Clue

Motorboats were prohibited at the lake, but sailboats were allowed.

**ELA Content Standards**  
Synonyms/Antonyms 2R1.7, 3R1.4, 4R1.2, 5R1.3  
Context Clues 1R2.4, 3R1.6, 6R1.4 Clarify Meaning  
7R1.3, 8R1.3

## Teach/Model

**Define Synonyms and Antonyms** Remind students that context clues are words in a sentence or paragraph that help to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words or phrases. Explain that readers can use context clues to figure out whether an unfamiliar word is a synonym or antonym of a word that they know. Tell students that synonyms are words that have similar meanings, while antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.

To figure out if an unfamiliar word is a synonym or antonym of a familiar word, tell students to:

1. look for context clues that restate ideas or depict opposite situations.
2. use prior knowledge about the content of the selection or the meaning of other words.
3. look for signal words such as *but* or *however* that signify that an unfamiliar word means the opposite of another word in the sentence. For example: *Bruce was a novice at carpentry, but Charlene was an expert.*

Write the following on the board and read it aloud: *The runner sped up and began a final dash for the finish line. Many runners slowed, but the winner ran at a fast pace.*

**THINK ALOUD** *I can understand what the word dash means by reading the sentences around it. The first sentence says the runner sped up. So, I can tell that dash must be a synonym for race or sprint. When I read that many runners slowed, but the winner ran at a fast pace, I know the word but signals a contrast. Fast pace here means the opposite of slow.*

## Guided Practice/Apply

**Use Context Clues** Write the following sentences on the board. Ask students to identify the synonym and antonym context clues that give the meanings of the underlined words.

1. Tim said, "I am starving." He was famished because he had not eaten all day.
2. My dog is so overweight that he is obese. He has not been thin since he was a puppy.
3. Be careful driving when the road is wet and hazardous. It is only safe when it is dry.

Have students use the dictionary to confirm meanings of unfamiliar words. Have them use a thesaurus to find additional synonyms and antonyms.

To reinforce the skill, distribute **Practice, page 255**.

### Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 254

SAM Keyword: Context

