

Grade 1 Context Clues

Student Workbook

DETECTIVE'S FILE

Name: _____

Class: _____

My Mission Starts: _____

Badge Earned: _____

Welcome, Detective!

You are going to learn how to figure out tricky words all by yourself. No dictionary. No grown-up. Just YOU and the clues in the sentence.

The 4 Kinds of Clues

#	Clue Type	How to Spot It
1	Tell-You Clue	The sentence tells you. Look for: is , or , means , comma.
2	Example Clue	Examples tell you. Look for: like , such as .
3	Same-Word Clue	Another word nearby means the SAME thing.
4	What-Happens Clue	The action tells you. What is happening in the sentence?

How to Solve Each Case

1. Find the mystery word (the one in bold).
2. Read the WHOLE sentence — don't stop at the tricky word!
3. Look for clues in the other words.
4. Pick the best meaning. Circle the letter.
5. Be proud — you just thought like a real reader!

Page 1 — Tell-You Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. The bold word is your mystery word. Look for **is**, **or**, **means**, or a comma that tells you what it means. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. A **cub** is a baby bear.
 - A) a big bear
 - B) a baby bear
 - C) a fish
 - D) a dog

2. My **grandma**, or my mom's mom, makes the best cookies.
 - A) a teacher
 - B) a friend
 - C) a baby
 - D) my mom's mom

3. A **jet** is a very fast plane.
 - A) a very fast plane
 - B) a slow car
 - C) a big boat
 - D) a small bird

4. A **pup**, or a baby dog, ran to me.
 - A) a big horse
 - B) a cat
 - C) a baby dog
 - D) a bird

5. A **cabin** is a small wooden house in the woods.

- A) a tall apartment
- B) a small wooden house
- C) a kind of car
- D) a kind of tent

6. My **sneakers**, or running shoes, got muddy at recess.

- A) school books
- B) a kind of fruit
- C) a hat
- D) running shoes

Page 2 — Example Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Find the examples in the sentence — they tell you what the mystery word means. Look for **like** and **such as**. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. I see many **bugs**, like ants, bees, and ladybugs.
 - A) birds
 - B) fish
 - C) tiny crawly things like ants and bees
 - D) flowers

2. My toy box has lots of **vehicles**, like cars, trucks, and trains.
 - A) things you ride in
 - B) kinds of food
 - C) soft animals
 - D) colors

3. Mom made **snacks**, like crackers, grapes, and cheese.
 - A) drinks
 - B) toys
 - C) books
 - D) little foods to eat

4. We saw many **pets** at the store, such as dogs, cats, and fish.
 - A) plants
 - B) animals people keep at home
 - C) foods
 - D) toys

5. I love **desserts**, like cake, ice cream, and cookies.
- A) vegetables
 - B) drinks
 - C) sweet treats
 - D) toys
6. The zoo has many **reptiles**, like snakes, lizards, and turtles.
- A) scaly cold-blooded animals
 - B) fluffy animals
 - C) birds with feathers
 - D) kinds of fish

Page 3 — Same-Word Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: The mystery word and another word in the sentence mean the SAME thing. Find the matching word — it will tell you the answer. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The cake was **huge**. It was so big it filled the table.
 - A) tiny
 - B) tasty
 - C) cold
 - D) very big

2. The water was **freezing**. It was so cold my hands hurt.
 - A) warm
 - B) very cold
 - C) pretty
 - D) salty

3. My sister is **brave**. She is not scared of the dark.
 - A) scared
 - B) sleepy
 - C) not scared
 - D) silly

4. The kitten was **soft**. Her fur felt fluffy and gentle.
 - A) fluffy and gentle
 - B) rough
 - C) wet
 - D) loud

5. The lemonade was **sweet**. It tasted like sugar.

- A) sour
- B) too hot
- C) too cold
- D) tasting like sugar

6. My puppy is **swift**. He runs so fast I can't catch him.

- A) slow
- B) fast
- C) tall
- D) sleepy

Page 4 — What-Happens Clues

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: Look at what is happening in each sentence. The action tells you what the mystery word means. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The boy was **soaked**. He played in the rain for an hour.
 - A) very wet
 - B) dry
 - C) cold
 - D) hot

2. The girl was **jolly**. She laughed and danced all day.
 - A) very sad
 - B) sleepy
 - C) very happy
 - D) sick

3. The man was **cautious**. He looked both ways before crossing the street.
 - A) silly
 - B) careful
 - C) angry
 - D) fast

4. The puppy was **tired**. He yawned and curled up on his bed.
 - A) hungry
 - B) angry
 - C) wild
 - D) sleepy

5. The baby was **delighted**. She clapped her hands and giggled.

- A) very happy
- B) sad
- C) sleepy
- D) sick

6. My grandpa was **weary**. He sat in his chair and closed his eyes.

- A) energetic
- B) angry
- C) very tired
- D) happy

Page 5 — Mixed Review (All 4 Clue Types)

Name: _____

Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: These cases use ALL 4 kinds of clues. Read carefully, find the clue, and circle the best answer. You are a real detective now!

1. I love **fruit**, like apples, pears, and bananas.
 - A) things in the garden
 - B) sweet things from plants
 - C) drinks
 - D) toys

2. The path was **narrow**. It was so thin only one person could walk on it.
 - A) very wide
 - B) very long
 - C) very short
 - D) very thin

3. A **rake**, or a long tool with teeth for gathering leaves, was in the shed.
 - A) a long tool for gathering leaves
 - B) a kind of toy
 - C) a kind of fruit
 - D) a small bird

4. My sister was **thrilled**. She jumped up and down when we gave her the present.
 - A) sad
 - B) angry
 - C) really excited and happy
 - D) sleepy

5. The chef cooked many **meals**, such as soup, pasta, and roast chicken.

- A) breakfasts only
- B) kinds of drinks
- C) kinds of bread
- D) foods made to eat

6. My puppy was **filthy**. He had rolled in the mud all afternoon.

- A) super dirty
- B) clean
- C) tired
- D) hungry

★ **Case closed. Hand in your workbook to earn your detective badge!** ★