

# How to Use Context Clues

## 1. Look for a definition!

It might be right after the word, but it could also be anywhere nearby.

The asteroid's orbit is **not a perfect circle**. That's why it is called an **eccentric** orbit.

It's an orbit that's not a perfect circle.

## 2. Look for an example.

Sometimes there is one, sometimes more than one.

Be sure to underline the **subordinating conjunction**, such as *although, before, or whereas*, in each of your sentences.

It's a combining word such as *although, before, or whereas*.

## 3. Look for the opposite.

If the author is showing a contrast, you can figure out the word's meaning from its opposite.

That building is in an **antebellum** style, not like the newer ones built **after the Civil War**.

It means before the Civil War.

