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.

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.

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.