

SPECIAL ED

USING CONTEXT CLUES

1. The challenge word is circled.
2. Put a box around any example clues given in the sentence.
3. Underline the words you can use as examples.
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Type your new word into the sentence and check if it makes sense.

1. Some people have phobias like fear of snakes, fear of flying, and fear of spiders.

2. Some people have phobias like fear of snakes, fear of flying, and fear of spiders.

3. Some people have phobias like fear of snakes, fear of flying, and fear of spiders.

4. Some people have phobias like fear of snakes, fear of flying, and fear of spiders.



5. Some people have _____ like fear of snakes, fear of flying, and fear of spiders.



INCLUDES GOOGLE SLIDES



This unit was created with this guy in mind. He has autism and an intellectual disability. He is a non-reader but loves books and stories. With some support he is able to do this unit, and enjoys the challenge. He is my tester!!

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In separate files, you will find:

- Lesson plan
- Group activities
- Voice recorded PowerPoint
- Links and directions to digital activities

This unit contains over 100 pages of material. I have included a detailed lesson plan to help you make the most of everything in this unit including how to add some group activities.

Context Clues Unit

Lesson Plan

Preparation

- Book
 - Print out, laminate, and bind
 - OR your students can listen to the pre-recorded version
- Power Card
 - Print out a card onto cardstock and laminate
 - Make a card for each student
- Definition puzzles
 - Print puzzle pieces onto cardstock and laminate
 - Make several sets
 - Used for group activities

Preassessment (do day 1 before starting lesson)

- Choose the quiz that best fits the learning level of your students (pictures or words)
- Give the assessment to assess what your students may already know
- I cannot emphasize enough how important this step is. If you want to see growth, this preassessment is so important!!

Teaching Tips

- *Color Coding:* this is a really easy way to add more structure to a matching activity. Outline or color in an empty box or sorting label. Outline or color in the corresponding picture symbols the same colors. Becomes a color matching task.
 - a. For more info, read more here:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2015/09/05/using-color-coding-for-differentiation/>
 - b. I also have a blog post on differentiating one activity 3 ways:
<https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/2018/10/22/differentiating-1-activity-3-ways-easily-and-effectively/>
- *Make your own copies of the activities:* Every day I review the activity we did yesterday. For that reason:
 - a. I often complete the activity myself and often laminated it for easy review that I could use year after year.

The lesson plans contain:

Overall tips for teaching students with significant needs

Quick Look

Day	Activity	Day	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Introduce power card• Group activity• Synonym practice	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using definition clues
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Synonym practice	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using definition clues
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using example clues	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Antonym practice
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using example clues	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Antonym practice
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using example clues	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using contrast clues
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Definition practice	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using contrast clues
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Definition practice	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using contrast clues
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Review power card• Group activity• Using definition clues	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quiz

The lesson plans contain:

A quick look at what you will do each day

Day 6-7

Activity	Notes	Materials
Read or listen to a recording of the book (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read through the story, asking lots of questions• Continue to make connections between book and power card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book• Power card
Power card review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the power card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Power card
Group activity: Definition puzzles (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the definition puzzles• See separate pdf for directions and puzzle pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition puzzle pieces
Example clues review (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review the worksheet completed yesterday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worksheet completed yesterday
Definition practice (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will complete the one of the definition practice worksheets• Add color-coding if needed• Refer to power card as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worksheet• Scissors• glue
Sharing (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each student shares their finished worksheet with the group using the communication method of their choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed worksheet• Communication devices

The lesson plans contain:

Detailed instructions on how that day's lesson should run

Step by step cards for using context clues. Made to fit on 4x6 index card.

- Print on cardstock and laminate
- Glue together back-to-back

Using Context Clues

1. Re-read the sentence
2. Circle the word you do not know
3. Underline any clue words you find
4. Guess what you think the new word means
5. Try your new word in the sentence; does it make sense?

Types of Context Clues

1. Example clues: including, consists of, like, and for example
2. Definition clues: or
3. Opposite clues: although, however, and unlike, not

This unit comes with a power card.

Power cards a great way for students to reference rules or short lists of information needed for a particular topic.

Tips on how to use in the unit!!

There are different types of context clues. Let's look at each one and how it may be helpful on your search for the meaning of a new word.



1. Example clues
2. Definition or the same clues
3. Contrast or opposite clues

The first type of clue you may find as a detective is an **example clue**. This is when the word you don't know is followed by another word that is an example of that word.



Now that you think you may know what the word means, substitute the word you think it is into the original sentence and see if it makes sense.

flower

The **chrysanthemum** smelled amazing, like a rose that just bloomed.

Hooray!! That does make sense. You are a great detective, and you learned a new word.



There is a book with this unit using simple text and photos. It is 31 pages and reviews the three main types of context clues and how to recognize and use them.

It comes in pdf versions as well as a voice-recorded PowerPoint and movie file (so you don't have to print it out.)

GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR BECOMING CONTEXT CLUE DETECTIVES

Unknown word scavenger hunt version 1

Here is what you will need:

- Post-it notes

How to play:

- Walk around the school and look for words students do not know (These are words students do not know the meaning of after the teacher/adult says the words aloud)
- Write the new word on a post-it note
- Create a wall in your classroom to park all the unknown words

Unknown word scavenger hunt version 2

Here is what you will need:

- Newspapers or magazines (I found ones that had short articles best)
- Can also use flyers or advertisements
- Highlighters

How to play:

- Give each student a passage
- If there are pictures, ask them what they think it might be about
- Read through some of the article and have students practice highlighting w that they do not know

Speed Matching

Here is what you will need:

- A set of Uno cards or playing cards

How to play:

- The goal is to get students to find **examples** of a card you describe
- Give students clues:
 - Find all the cards with a 4
 - Find all the cards that are red
 - Find all the cards that have a man (kings and jacks)
 - Find all the cards that have a heart and an even number

Paper plate toss

Here is what you will need:

- paper plates
- bean bags

How to play:

- This will help students practice identifying opposites
- Paste pictures from magazines on the plates and spread around an area in front of where students are sitting
- Students toss a bean bag onto a plate and have to name something that is the opposite or contrasts what is on the plate. (man >> woman, fruit >> vegetable, dog >> cat)

Definition match

Here is what you will need:

- Print out the definition puzzle pieces
- Cut apart and laminate

How to play:

- Students will match the picture and the definition

Fill in the blank

Here is what you will need:

- White board and markers

How to play:

- Write a sentence on the board with a blank in the middle.
- Example: *My brother was a great athlete. He played _____ every weekend with boys from the neighborhood.*
- Have students brainstorm some words you could put in the blank.
- Identify other words in the sentence that helped you determine what words you might use.
- To differentiate: Give students 2-3 words to choose from and see if their choice makes sense.

Silly sentences

Here is what you will need:

- Shite board and markers

How to play:

- Write a sentence on the board that contains a made-up word.
- Example: *We drank the ice cold **fizzledrops** for breakfast.*
- *Students try to guess what the made-up word might mean.*
- Identify words in the sentence that helped them figure it out.
- To differentiate: Give students 2-3 words to choose from and see if their choice makes sense.

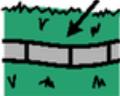
There are group activities
that you can incorporate as
part of the daily lesson.

 apple	Fruit that grows on trees in the fall.
 fireman	Person you would call to put out a fire.
 violin	Instrument with strings you play with a bow.
 calculator	

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 cat	Animal that is often a pet and can purr.
 shovel	Tool used to dig in the dirt.
 shark	Animal that lives in the ocean.
 lion	Animal that lives in the jungle and has a mane.

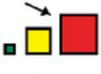
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 ice cream	Frozen milk often eaten for dessert.
 vacuum cleaner	Tool used to clean a carpet.
 sidewalk	Safe place to walk along a road or street.
 bird house	Small house built for a bird.

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There are definition puzzles included to use with one of the group activities.

Anxious and nervous are synonyms, two different words that mean basically the same thing. Find the synonym for the words below.

 medal		 beautiful	
 car		 large	
 rabbit		 hat	
 house		 run	
 cold		 story	

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Match the words below with its synonym on the previous page.

 hare	 freezing	 fairy tale	 handsome	 automobile
 award	 home	 huge	 cap	 jog

Answer key

- medal >> award
- beautiful >> handsome
- car >> automobile
- large >> huge
- rabbit >> hare
- hat >> cap
- house >> home
- run >> jog
- cold >> freezing
- story >> fairy tale

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Quiet and peaceful are synonyms, two different words that mean basically the same thing. Find the synonym for the words below.

 dark		 awful	
 mean		 bad	
 hate		 afraid	
 strange		 sad	
 danger		 take	

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Match the pictures below with the synonym on the previous page.

 not good	 steal	 terrified	 unusual	 yucky
 hazard	 I don't like that	 upset	 bully	 gloomy

Answer key

- dark >> gloomy
- awful >> yucky
- mean >> bully
- bad >> not good
- hate >> I don't like that
- afraid >> terrified
- strange >> unusual
- sad >> upset
- danger >> hazard
- take >> steal

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Each type of context clue spends 2 days reviewing previous knowledge needed to effectively use that type of context clue. In this activity, students review finding synonyms that will be used in the example clues.

Circle the word that is being defined.

1. A storm with very strong winds and rain.



2. A large body of salt water where sharks live.



3. A vehicle that takes kids back and forth from school.



4. An orange vegetable that grows under the ground.



5. Something you use to climb up high.



6. A machine in the kitchen that automatically cleans dishes.



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Circle the word that is being defined.

7. A holiday in October where kids dress up and ask for candy.



8. A frozen drink that is made from ice cream.



9. Something you often sleep in when camping.



10. An animal lives in the woods and hibernates in the winter.



Name: _____

_____ at you wear on your wrist.

Circle the word that is being defined.

1. A storm with very strong winds and rain.

- A. earthquake
- B. hurricane
- C. blizzard

2. A large body of salt water where sharks live.

- A. pond
- B. bathtub
- C. ocean

3. A vehicle that takes kids back and forth from school.

- A. school bus
- B. bike
- C. jet

4. An orange vegetable that grows under the ground.

- A. carrot
- B. orange
- C. cucumber

5. Something you use to climb up high.

- A. shovel
- B. tape
- C. ladder

6. A machine in the kitchen that automatically cleans dishes.

- A. blender
- B. dishwasher
- C. washing machine

_____ your hands when you play in the snow.



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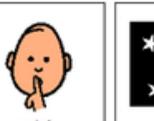
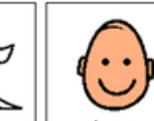
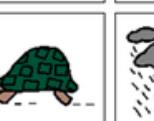
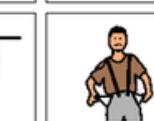
In this activity, students review finding definitions for words that will be used in the definition clues. Each set of review sheets also comes with a version that only has words and no pictures.

Expensive and cheap are antonyms or opposites. They contrast one another. Find the antonyms to the words below.

 war	<input type="text"/>	 loud	<input type="text"/>
 day	<input type="text"/>	 summer	<input type="text"/>
 sunny	<input type="text"/>	 rich	<input type="text"/>
 wet	<input type="text"/>	 sad	<input type="text"/>
 fast	<input type="text"/>	 start	<input type="text"/>

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Match to the antonym on the previous page.

 winter	 quiet	 night	 peace	 happy
 finish	 slow	 stormy	 dry	 poor

Answer key

- war >> peace
- loud >> quiet

Name: _____

Circle the antonym for each word

- calm
A. upset B. quiet C. tranquil
- lofty
A. important B. lowly C. high
- rapid
A. sluggish B. quick C. confused
- rigid
A. flexible B. stiff C. unwavering
- sorrow
A. joy B. despair C. frigid
- interior
A. inner B. aside C. exterior
- immense
A. huge B. giant C. tiny
- late
A. early B. tardy C. absent
- destroy
A. build B. ruin C. demolish
- generous
A. giving B. charitable C. greedy

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Finally, in this activity, students review finding antonyms for words that will be used in the contrast clues.

Again, there are 2 worksheets with pictures and 2 with just words.

Name: _____

1. The challenge word is circled. Highlight it.
2. Underline the words you can use as example clues.
3. Put a box around any examples given in the sentence
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Check if your new sentence makes sense.

1. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

2. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

3. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

4. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.



5. There was a _____ downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

Name: _____

1. The challenge word is circled. Highlight it.
2. Underline the words you can use as example clues.
3. Put a box around any examples given in the sentence
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Check if your new sentence makes sense.

1. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.

2. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.

3. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.

4. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.



5. The cat was _____, not loud and clumsy like the dog.

There are 10 worksheets that have students work through the steps using each type of context clue. These are for using example clues.

Name: _____

1. The challenge word is circled. Highlight it.
2. Put a box around the definition clue given in the sentence.
3. Underline the words you can use as the definition.
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Check if your new sentence makes sense.

1. We heard a tabor, or small drum, across the campground.

2. We heard a tabor, or small drum, across the campground.

3. We heard a tabor, or small drum, across the campground.

4. We heard a tabor, or small drum, across the campground.



5. We heard a _____ across the campground.



Name: _____

1. The challenge word is circled. Highlight it.
2. Put a box around the definition clue given in the sentence.
3. Underline the words you can use as the definition.
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Check if your new sentence makes sense.

1. I want to be an entomologist or expert on bugs when I grow up.

2. I want to be an entomologist or expert on bugs when I grow up.

3. I want to be an entomologist or expert on bugs when I grow up.

4. I want to be an entomologist or expert on bugs when I grow up.



5. I want to be an _____ when I grow up.

There are 10 worksheets
for using definition clues.

Name: _____

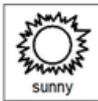
1. The challenge word is circled. Highlight it.
2. Put a box around any opposite clues given in the sentence.
3. Underline the words you can use as opposites.
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Check if your new sentence makes sense.

1. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

2. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

3. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

4. There was a torrential downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.



5. There was a _____ downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier in the day.

Answer Key

1. There was a **torrential** downpour, unlike the light drizzle earlier day.
• Answer: heavy
2. The new puppy was **rambunctious**, unlike our calm, quiet puppy.
• Answer: crazy
3. Rebuilding the cabin was an **insurmountable** task, not a simple job of putting up the tent.
• Answer: impossible
4. Judah was **meticulous** with his work, not careless as his brother.
• Answer: careful
5. The cat was **stealthy**, not loud and clumsy like the dog.
• Answer: quiet
6. Stella look pretty **content** about it, not upset or frustrated at a friend.
• Answer: happy
7. The story seemed **unfathomable** to me although he swore it was true.
• Answer: impossible
8. As an old man he suffered from **alopecia**, although he used to have long hair.
• Answer: baldness
9. **Throngs** of people clogged the stores on Saturday unlike the empty mall on Wednesday.
• Answer: crowds
10. It was **sweltering** outside, however it cooled off once it rained.
• Answer: hot

There are 10 worksheets for using contrast or opposite clues. Each set of worksheets includes an answer key.

Context Clues Quiz

1. Context clues can help you figure out what?



2. What type of clue could you use for this: The calamitous tornado consisted of powerful winds that destroyed the town.



3. What word is often used with definition context clues?



4. Contrast clues often tell you the _____ of the word you don't know.



5. What should you always do after you think you know what the unknown word means?



Context Clues Quiz

1. Context clues can help you figure out what?

- A. Size
- B. Unknown word
- C. Location

2. What type of clue could you use for this: The calamitous tornado consisted of powerful winds that destroyed the town.

- A. Example
- B. Definition
- C. opposite

3. What word is often used with definition context clues?

- A. Like
- B. Not
- C. Or

4. Contrast clues often tell you the _____ of the word you don't know.

- A. Opposite
- B. Definition
- C. Origin

5. What should you always do after you think you know what the unknown word means?

- A. Tell someone
- B. Check it
- C. Erase it

FINALLY there is a 5 question quiz. It comes in this version with pictures and one that is traditional multiple choice.

Answer key included.

Listen to the movie on using context clues



This unit has digital versions of the activities as well. There is a movie version of the book students can watch.

 war	<input type="text"/>	 loud	<input type="text"/>
 day	<input type="text"/>	 summer	<input type="text"/>
 sunny	<input type="text"/>	 rich	<input type="text"/>
 wet	<input type="text"/>	 sad	<input type="text"/>
 fast	<input type="text"/>	 start	<input type="text"/>

Expensive and cheap are antonyms or opposites. They contrast one another. Find the antonyms to the words on the other side of the slide.

 winter	 quiet	 night	 peace
 happy	 finish	 slow	 stormy
 dry	 poor		

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There are 2 sets of slides. One set has no differentiation. Students will have to do some (not much) typing.

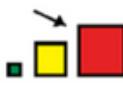
1. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.
2. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.
3. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.
4. The cat was stealthy, not loud and clumsy like the dog.

 loud	 quiet	 fast
---	--	---

5. The cat was , not loud and clumsy like the dog.

1. The challenge word is circled.
2. Underline the words you can use as example clues.
3. Put a box around any examples given in the sentence
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Type in the new word and check if your new sentence makes sense.

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 medal		 beautiful	
 car		 large	
 rabbit		 hat	
 house		 run	
 cold		 story	

Anxious and nervous are synonyms, two different words that mean basically the same thing. Find the synonym for the pictures on the other side of this slide.

 hare	 freezing	 fairy tale	 handsome
 automobile	 award	 home	 cap
 huge	 jog		

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The second set has color-coding for differentiation. Students will have to do some (not much) typing. There are a total of 38 slides in each set.

1. You can see constellations like the Big Dipper and Ursa Major in the spring night sky.

2. You can see constellations like the Big Dipper and Ursa Major in the spring night sky.

3. You can see constellations like the Big Dipper and Ursa Major in the spring night sky.

4. You can see constellations like the Big Dipper and Ursa Major in the spring night sky.

 silverware	 stars	 tools
---	--	--

5. You can see like the Big Dipper and Ursa Major in the spring night sky.

1. The challenge word is circled.
2. Put a box around any example clues given in the sentence.
3. Underline the words you can use as examples.
4. Circle one of the choices you could use as a replacement word.
5. Type your new word into the sentence and check if it makes sense.

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I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)