

Use Prior Knowledge and Context Clues to Determine the Meaning of Words

Prior knowledge is your schema-everything you know from all of the experiences you have had in your life.

Context clues are the words and sentences that surround words you don't know. They give clues or hints as to what the word means.

It is very important to understand what the words mean when you are reading, otherwise you may not understand the story. Using prior knowledge and context clues can help you figure out what a word means.

While you are reading:

- Look for a context clue that is in the sentence.
- After you find a clue, re-read the sentence.
- Think about what the sentence says.
- If you still can't figure out what the word means, try another strategy, such as looking it up in a dictionary.