

LESSON 16

This lesson focuses on one way of guessing unfamiliar words by looking at *examples* given in the context as *clues*.

One way of guessing the meaning of a word is by looking carefully at the words around that word. Look at the following sentence.

The street is crowded with **conveyances** of all descriptions, **such as** buses, bicycles, cars and automobiles.

You can guess the meaning of **conveyances** by looking at the *Examples*—buses, bicycles, cars and automobiles—so you know that **conveyances** are means of transportation.

EXERCISE:

In the following passages, guess the meaning of the italicized words by looking at the examples given. Write the correct answer in the space provided.

1. Although the **hazards** of the trip were many—for example, the unbearable heat, the lack of water, the possibility of getting lost, the presence of wild animals and poisonous snakes—the man nevertheless decided that he must go. _____
 - a. conveniences
 - b. dangers
 - c. possibilities
 - d. pleasures

2. Because of the warm, moist climate, almost any **crop** can be grown here, including rice, cotton and sugar cane. Tobacco and even bamboo grow well. This city contains one of the largest sugar refining plants in the world. _____
 - a. natural substances
 - b. forest trees
 - c. fruit-trees
 - d. agricultural plants

3. Bangkok has many important **historic shrines**.

These include the Stupa at Nakhonprathom,
the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, and
the Equestrian Statue of Rama V. _____

- a. places associated with something or somebody deeply respected
- b. places with many government agencies and bureaus
- c. places in which objects illustrating art, history, science, etc. are displayed
- d. places on a sports ground for use of players, spectators, etc.

4. The life spans of different **rodents** vary greatly. For example, a rabbit has a life span more than

twice as long as that of a rat and almost four times as long as that of a mouse. _____

- a. animals with six legs and no backbone
- b. animals which feed their young with milk
- c. animals which are kept in a zoo
- d. animals with teeth adapted for gnawing or biting

LESSON17

In **LESSON 16**, you have studied how examples can help you to guess the meaning of a new word.

In this lesson, you will be introduced to another way of guessing the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Look at the following sentence.

Most **domestic** dogs are smart.

You can't guess the meaning of **domestic** because there is not enough information.

Domestic could mean, for example:

- | | |
|--------|------------|
| either | a. wild |
| or | b. hunting |
| or | c. tame |

To get more information you have to continue reading.

Most **domestic** dogs are smart. They can be trained for hunting.

Now the first definition—**wild**—is improbable because of the second sentence. But you are still unsure whether **domestic** means **hunting** or **tame**. Read the following paragraph.

Most **domestic** dogs are smart. They can be trained for hunting. They can also be taught to be watchdogs or guide-dogs for blind people.

Now you can be fairly sure that **domestic** means **tame** in this context because of the information given in the last sentence; it helps to **explain** the meaning of **domestic**. More information gives you a more detailed **explanation**. A more detailed explanation will help you to make a better guess at the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

EXERCISE:

The following exercise will help to direct your attention to the kind of information you can get from the words around the word in italics. Write the letter of the most probable definition.

- ___ 1. Most **domestic** dogs are smart. They can be trained for hunting.
They can also be taught to be watchdogs or guide-dogs for blind people.
a. wild
b. hunting
c. tame
- ___ 2. Cockroaches don't eat much, but they **spoil** food with their body wastes. They carry germs of diseases, including polio and typhoid fever, that affect humans.
a. supply
b. damage
c. chew
- ___ 3. One **naturalist** had spent almost a year observing a raccoon's behavior. Once he found a raccoon's winter sleeping place in an empty hawk's nest high in a tree.
a. one who studies mostly animals and plants
b. one who studies mostly weather
c. one who studies mostly types of soil
- ___ 4. Duck-billed platypuses are very greedy eaters. The platypus' **appetite** is probably bigger than any other animal's. A platypus can eat more than its own weight in a day.
a. big stomach
b. desire for food
c. outward appearance
- ___ 5. Somsak's wife was beautiful but her continual **extravagance** made him wonder if he could really afford such high expenses. Each month he was going deeper into debt, attempting to pay for her costly purchases.
a. excessive spending
b. dishonest tricks
c. silly complaints

LESSON18

So far you have seen two ways of getting the meaning of a new word by looking at examples or looking at words around that word which help to explain its meaning in the context.

Sometimes you have to use both methods to acquire the meaning of a new word. This exercise is aimed at helping you improve this skill.

EXERCISE:

Read the following passages. Select the meaning on the right that corresponds to the underlined word on the left. Write the letters of the answers in the blanks. Be careful—there are more choices than answers.

- ___ 1. A civil engineer is concerned with the design and building of such large structures as dams, highways, tunnels and bridges.
- ___ 2. Some animals change their diets. Birds give up their insects and eat mostly seeds. Rabbits nibble twigs instead of juicy leaves.
- ___ 3. Every February Quebec has a winter carnival. There are parades, street dances, costume balls and sports events.
- ___ 4. Cloth is the most common material for clothing. Yet for some garments, cloth is not as suitable as other materials. Leather, for example, is best for shoes. Rubber is better for other clothing.
- ___ 5. The ancient Egyptians had a unique way of showing contempt for an enemy. They had his name placed on the bottom of their sandals. Every time they took a step they were grinding a hated name into the dust.
- a. choices of food
b. something constructed, especially buildings
c. articles of clothing
d. animals which feed their young with milk from the breast
e. festival or public merrymaking and feasting, usually with processions of persons in fancy dress
f. the act of exchanging news
g. feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, respect
h. looking down upon or despising

LESSON 19

This lesson deals with another type of ***external clue***: **similarity**.

Look at the following sentence.

A cat may look **big** to a mouse. **In the same way**, a mouse probably looks **monstrous** to an insect.

If you don't know what **monstrous** means, you can learn its meaning by looking at the words around that word. Here the writer is comparing the sizes of a cat and a mouse. He is also comparing the sizes of a mouse and an insect. **Monstrous** is thus similar to **big** because the author uses the phrase **in the same way**. Therefore, we know that **monstrous** means very large or huge.

EXERCISE:

In each blank, write the word which means almost the same as the one given in parentheses.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| (ended) | 1. The path terminated in thick bushes. Since the afternoon was coming to an end too, the boys decided to turn back. _____ |
| (jumps) | 2. Kangaroos are the best long jumpers. They do not make a single jump; they make a number of hops. Each hop is a great length. The longest hop that anyone has measured is 12.8 m. _____ |
| (glue on) | 3. Did you know that the first stick-on or adhesive stamps in the world were issued in Great Britain in May 1840? They were the Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue. _____ |
| (snake) | 4. Pythons are also very long. An African rock serpent measuring 9.81 meters was killed in 1932. A zoo in Pittsburgh, U.S.A., had a reticulated python. When it died in 1963 it was over nine meters long. _____ |
| (life-span) | 5. Did you know that only a few animals have a longevity greater than human beings? Tortoises and turtles are probably the longest-living animals. Tortoises have been known to live to be 152 years old and turtles to 129 years. _____ |

LESSON 20

LESSON 19 shows you how to get the meaning of a new word by looking at a word or phrase nearby with a similar meaning.

This lesson presents another way of making an intelligent guess at the meaning of a new word by looking at a word or phrase nearby with the ***opposite meaning***.

Look at the following sentences.

Some chemicals have a pleasant smell.

Others have a **repellent odor**.

You don't know what **repellent odor** means but you can guess that it must be opposite to **pleasant smell**. Therefore, it should mean **unpleasant smell**.

EXERCISE:

The following exercise will help you to guess the meaning of a new word by contrasting it with a familiar word. Write the letter of the correct answer which means the same as the word in italics.

- ____ 1. Conditions in the new country have been **retrogressing** instead of progressing because the country is ruled by a ruthless dictator who cares little for the welfare of his people.
- moving steadily
 - moving forward
 - moving backward
- ____ 2. Social psychologist Michael Argyle observes that there is more eye contact between people who are friendly towards each other than those who are **hostile** towards each other.
- friendly
 - unfriendly
 - indifferent

- ____ 3. There are several kinds of volcanoes. There are **extinct** volcanoes; there are dormant or sleeping ones, and there are active ones that still erupt.
- dead
 - burning
 - sleeping
- ____ 4. The **conformist** usually follows others and thinks and acts as everyone else does. In contrast, the non-conformist prefers to act on his own and formulate his own ideas and opinions.
- one who generally accepts rules
 - one who is advanced in opinions
 - one who behaves very strangely
- ____ 5. Nuclear physicists often find it impossible to discuss their work with **laymen**. Many physicists prefer to confine their talk to other members of their profession. The specialized vocabulary and complex concepts of physics are often understood only by other experts in the field.
- nuclear physicists
 - people with special knowledge
 - non-professional people

LESSON 21

This lesson reviews using similarity and contrast to get the meaning of a new word.

EXERCISE:

Find the synonyms (คำที่มีความหมายเหมือนกัน) or antonyms (คำที่มีความหมายตรงข้ามกัน) of the words in italics in the following passages. Write the answers in the blanks.

1. Although the museum claimed that the oil painting was an original, the artist knew that it was a **copy**.. (antonym) _____
2. Learning to play the guitar appeared to be a formidable task, but once she started, Marisa found it rather **easy**. (antonym) _____
3. The man appeared very vigorous despite his 80 years. In fact he was so **strong** that he could still lift heavy objects. (synonym) _____
4. Although learning new words by clues in the sentence may seem **impossible** at first, with practice it is entirely feasible. (antonym) _____
5. The gigantic model of a dinosaur will be put in the museum. The problem is how to get it through the door because of its **huge** size. (synonym) _____
6. Earthquakes sometimes follow a pattern of fore shocks, main shocks, and aftershocks. Fore shocks may be very **strong**, almost major earthquakes, or very feeble and hardly felt. (antonym) _____
7. Many large **groups** of birds possessing great powers of flight wander from place to place in search of food. Flocks of them can be seen flying at great heights and are known to cover long distances. (synonym) _____