

Example

an action

word's meaning



Via examples, which illustrate the



a failed million-dollar investment.

and koalas, can be found in Australia.

Many types of marsupials, such as kangaroos





How to infer meaning of words from contextual clues



action etc.

Determine which part of speech the word belongs to. From this, you can know what type of word it is, e.g. an object, an

Look at the grammar of the word, such as the prefix or suffix. This can give you a clue to the meaning of the word.

W

Look at the other words in the sentence. They often contain clues to the word's meaning.

Guess the meaning of the word. Check your answer by replacing the word with the meaning and see if the text is still correct and logical.

M

Look at the sentences around the sentence with the new word. They can give an idea of the context in which the word is used.

Example: Inferring the meaning of the word "incarceration"

The word "incarceration" belongs to the part of speech of NOUN.

The word has a suffix of -tion. This indicates that it may be a process.

From this phrase, and our prior From this phrase, and our phore the knowledge of law and crime, the knowledge of "incorporation," con Step 3 nowledge of law and crime, the meaning of "incarceration" can be implied as "imprisonment", which is a noun and a process. be implied as "imp

When the judge delivered the verdict of guilty and sentenced Johnny to
ten years of incarceration for the
crime of robbery, his wife broke down and sobbed. He was the sole breadwinner of the family.
How would she support her two
young children now?

The context of the

sentences indicates that "incarceration" means "imprisonment".

The sentence remains correct even if "incarceration" is replaced with "imprisonment"



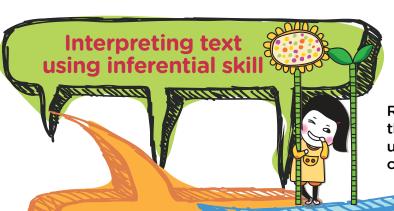












Readers can use inferential skills to help them to interpret a text. This is especially useful when answering questions in a comprehension exercise.

How to infer answers to comprehension questions

Sample text:



Officer Tan proceeded cautiously into the alley. The coppery smell of blood and death hit him before he even saw the body. He walked gingerly towards it, careful not to step on the bloodstains on the ground. The victim lay on her back, her glorious mane matted with blood. Some blood flowed out of her snout. Her limbs were sprawled out around her body, and a leash, presumably hers, lay nearby. A chain around her neck held a pendant inscribed with the name 'Lily'. "This is the third case this month," thought Officer Tan grimly.

Question: What do you think Lily is?

1) Read the question. Highlight keywords which will help you to answer it.

Keywords for the question are: What, Lily and is.

 Look for information in the text which can help you to answer the question.

Some clues provided in the text include: mane, snout, leash, and a chain with the name Lily.

3) Bring in prior knowledge of the topic and logical reasoning.

The items- 'mane', 'snout',
 'leash' and 'chain with
name'- are usually associated
with pet dogs, so Lily is likely
 a dog.



5) Check your answer by checking if it fits with the overall context of the text.

Is there any detail in the text which opposes your inference?

References

Preszler, J., & Hartmann, J. (Eds.). (2006). Strategies to Help Readers Make Meaning through Inferences. Black Hills Special Service Cooperative (BHSSC).

Walters, J. Methods of Teaching Inferring Meaning from Context. RELC Journal, 37(2), 176-190. Retrieved from http://www.academia.edu/314358/Methods_of_Teaching_Inferring_Meaning_From_Context

Using Context Clues. (2010). Retrieved from The Longman Vocabulary Website, http://wps.ablongman.com/long_licklider_vocabulary_2/6/1626/416421.cw/index.html parentloc Rhalmi, M. (2013). Guessing meaning from context. Retrieved from http://www.myenglishpages.com/blog/guessing-meaning-from-context/

fb.com/sgsure www.nlb.gov.sg/sure









