

Clue Type	Description	Example
Direct Definition	The author defines the word.	A buoy is an anchored and floating marker in a body of water that's used to identify hazards.
Appositive	The author describes a word with a phrase that follows it and is set off by commas.	They are going to parallel park the car, alongside the curb lengthwise, in front of the hardware store.
Comparison	The author compares an unfamiliar word with a familiar one.	Like anyone who manages money carefully, Bill is frugal.
Contrast	The author contrasts an unfamiliar word with a familiar one to show opposites.	People who cross the street without looking both ways are not cautious.
Example	The author inserts an example to explain a word or term.	He checked the type of currency, such as dollars, euros, or krona, used in the country.
Logic	When the whole of the sentence is considered, the meaning is logical.	A human skeleton acts like the internal support beams in a building.

Figure 4.12: Types of context clues.

Source: Tompkins, 2010.

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