

## Vocabulary • Context Clues

- Sometimes you will see a familiar word that doesn't make sense in a sentence. The word may have another meaning.
- Look at the words and sentences around the unfamiliar word for **context clues**. They may help you figure out the meaning of the word.

**Directions** Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions.

**T**he swimmer had strong arms. She swam with long, strong strokes. She moved quickly against the ocean current. She swam so fast that she won the

swimming race. She was very happy. Her heart stirred, she was so happy. People cried, "Hurray!" and cheered. She beamed at all the people clapping for her.

1. What does *strokes* mean in this passage? What clues helped?

**Arm movements. Clues: swam with long, strong strokes.**

2. What does *current* mean in this passage? What clues helped you?

**Movement of ocean water. Clues: ocean.**

3. What does *stirred* mean in this passage? What clues helped you?

**Moved with feeling/emotion. Clues: her heart stirred, so happy.**

4. What does *cried* mean in this passage? What clues helped you?

**Yelled. Clues: cried, "Hurray!"**

**Directions** Look at the word meanings under each sentence. Circle the meaning of the word.

5. What is your current state of health?      moving ocean water      **at this time**

6. I learned new painting strokes.      **marks from a brush**      arm movements

7. Get some water from the tap.  
open up      **faucet**

8. Jill swam laps in the pool.  
**tank of water to swim in**      puddle



**Home Activity** Your child has identified and used context clues to figure out the meaning of words that look the same but have different meanings. Read a magazine article to your child. Encourage him or her to find words that look like familiar words but that have an unfamiliar meaning. Help your child use context clues to figure out the meanings of the words.