Words in context

A words-in-context question asks for the word that most precisely fits the meaning. . .



Lesson `rw.craft.K1`

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The idea

A words-in-context question asks for the word that most precisely fits the meaning the sentence builds. Use the surrounding context (definitions, contrasts, examples, and tone) to PREDICT the intended meaning, then choose the word that matches it exactly.

What meaning does the surrounding context build for the blank? Is there a contrast, a definition, an example, or a tone to read?

Predict a word or phrase from context first. Then test each option for precise meaning, correct sense, matching connotation, and consistency with the context.

Watch every step

The editor asked the writer to ___ the article, trimming it from 2,000 words to 800.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word?

- **A.** condense
- **B.** expand ✗ *contradicts-context word*
- **C.** summarize ✗ *wrong-sense word*
- **D.** edit ✗ *imprecise/loosely-related word*

Why **A** — "condense." Choose the option that matches the prediction most exactly.

Now a harder one

Once dismissed as a fad, the technique has gained ___ acceptance, now endorsed by leading researchers across the discipline.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word?

- **A.** widespread
- **B.** reluctant ✕ *wrong-connotation word*
- **C.** partial ✕ *imprecise/loosely-related word*
- **D.** temporary ✕ *contradicts-context word*

Why **A** — "widespread." Choose the option that matches the prediction most exactly.

The method, in one line

Words in context

Predict a word or phrase from context first. Then test each option for precise meaning, correct sense, matching connotation, and consistency with the context.

Is the word precise, not just in the general area? Is it the right sense? Does its connotation match the tone? Does it fit, not contradict, the context?

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ imprecise/loosely-related word

Selects a word in the right general area but not the precise meaning the sentence builds.

⚠ wrong-sense word

Selects a word whose alternate sense does not match the meaning the context requires.

Name the trap before you pick — most wrong answers are one of these two.

Try it, then watch the walk-through

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