

# Context clues

## Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

**Context clues** are hints that help us understand unknown words. Different types include:

- **Definition Clues:** The word is defined nearby
- **Antonym Clues:** A nearby word means the opposite
- **Synonym Clues:** A nearby word means almost the same thing
- **Example Clues:** An example nearby helps explain the word
- **Inference Clues:** What the text says and what you already know can be used to figure out the word



As you read the story, look for context clues that help explain the meaning of the underlined words.

### Animals of Madagascar

Paragraph 1

Have you ever seen a lemur before? Unless you have visited a zoo, chances are high that you haven't! Lemurs live only on the island of Madagascar, off the coast of Africa. They look like monkeys, but they aren't. Although lemurs are related to monkeys and great apes, they belong to a different branch of the primate family called prosimians. Lemurs are known for their large eyes, their furry tails and their very playful personalities.

Paragraph 2

In Madagascar, lemurs live in groups. Each group has its own space. These groups can be very territorial, meaning that they are protective of the area where they live. They may chase away other animals who come too close to their trees or their favorite spots to find food!

Paragraph 3

In every lemur group, there is usually one lemur who is dominant and not a follower. This lemur is usually the one to make important decisions, like where to search for food or when to move to a new living area. The dominant leader is the strongest and most respected group member.



Paragraph 4

Lemurs are famous for how they communicate. They communicate by vocalizing, or making different sounds to talk to each other. They may make loud calls to warn their group about danger. They also make quieter chirps when they feel happy or safe. Lemurs are able to share how they feel and better understand each other thanks to these different sounds.

Lemurs are also extremely agile and able to move quickly. They can leap from tree to tree gracefully and are able to move safely and swiftly throughout the forest.

Life isn't always easy for lemurs. They do face challenges, especially when humans destroy the forests where they live. Although some animals might not be able to survive these changes, lemurs are adaptable. They find new ways to live and survive without being told how.



### Then answer the following questions:

1. What is the text mostly about?
  - a. Why lemurs live in Africa
  - b. What lemurs are and how they behave
  - c. How lemurs build nests in trees
2. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **territorial** in paragraph 2?
  - a. Antonym
  - b. Synonym
  - c. Definition
3. What is the best meaning of the word **dominant** in paragraph 3?
  - a. the youngest
  - b. the one who leads
  - c. the shyest

4. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **dominant** in paragraph 3?
- a. Synonym
  - b. Antonym
  - c. Inference

5. What is the best meaning of **vocalizing** in paragraph 4?
- a. Eating quickly
  - b. Climbing very high
  - c. Making sounds

6. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **vocalizing** in paragraph 4?
- a. Antonym
  - b. Inference
  - c. Example

7. What is the best definition of the word **agile** in paragraph 5?
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8. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **adaptable** in paragraph 6?
- a. Antonym
  - b. Definition
  - c. Inference

## Answers

1. What is the text mostly about?  
b. What lemurs are and how they behave
2. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **territorial** in paragraph 2?  
c. Definition
3. What is the best meaning of the word **dominant** in paragraph 3?  
b. the one who leads
4. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **dominant** in paragraph 3?  
b. Antonym
5. What is the best meaning of **vocalizing** in paragraph 4?  
c. Making sounds
6. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **vocalizing** in paragraph 4?  
c. Example
7. What is the best definition of the word **agile** in paragraph 5?  
Quick and graceful
8. What type of context clue helps you figure out the meaning of **adaptable** in paragraph 6?  
c. Inference