

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 24 Using Reading Skills

Learning from Context: Comparison and Contrast

Some context clues to unfamiliar words are in the form of comparison or contrast. For example, the sentence may contain other words or phrases that are either similar to or different from the unfamiliar word. Signal words such as *similarly*, *likewise*, and *also* may indicate comparison clues. Words such as *unlike*, *but*, and *whereas* can point out contrast clues.

Word List

dilapidated

elusive

garrulous

nocturnal

odious

querulous

sedate

translucent

uncanny

zenith

EXERCISE

Circle the clue word that indicates comparison or contrast. Then, write the meaning of the boldfaced word. Consult a dictionary to confirm your answers. **Sample definitions are provided.**

1. Like Belfont, which has **also** become run-down, our neighborhood's buildings are quite dilapidated.

dilapidated: run down, in disrepair

2. I sniffed the **elusive** fragrance of the flowers and the **equally** unidentifiable aroma wafting from the kitchen.

elusive: hard to identify

3. The man is absolutely **odious**, **unlike** Mr. Detrick who couldn't be more delightful.

odious: unpleasant

4. Jill has an **uncanny** ability to detect lies, **whereas** Mark has only ordinary ways of spotting dishonesty.

uncanny: extraordinary, not quite normal

5. I'd never met anyone as **garrulous** as Nancy, except for Luis, who is **also** very talkative.

garrulous: chatty

6. Mrs. Brown became **querulous** late in the day, **just as** a child gets cranky when it's nap time.

querulous: cranky

7. The actress was at the **zenith** of her career, **unlike** her husband, who couldn't find a job.

zenith: highest point, peak

8. **Like** a see-through gauze curtain, the **translucent** lampshade let light spread across the room.

translucent: letting light through

9. European badgers are **nocturnal** animals, **but** American badgers often leave their nests during the day.

nocturnal: awake at night and asleep in the day

10. I think of Quay as a **sedate** person who loves reading, **but** she can be outgoing in the right company.

sedate: calm and unflappable