Accuracy

USE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE AND CONTEXT

UNDERSTAND	**Definition**	Context clues are the words, phrases, and sentences surrounding an unfamiliar word that give clues or hints to its meaning. The reader uses these clues and the information they bring to the text to determine the meaning of the words.
	When to teach this strategy	**If you see readers who . . .** • may stall on a word, or just skip the word and read on. • substitute a word that doesn't make sense despite hints in the text.
PREPARE	**Why we teach it**	Readers use context clues as an accuracy strategy to figure out what a word is that they are trying to read. Readers also learn to use context clues to determine the meaning of words as a vocabulary strategy.
	Secret to success	When you come to a word you don't know, look at and think about the words before and after the unknown word, and then predict what the word could be.
TEACH	**How we teach it**	When readers come to a word they don't know, they *look, think,* and *reread.* Here are four steps to help readers remember what to do: 1. Look at the words before and after the unknown word. 2. Try to infer what the word could be, based on the words around it. 3. Reread the sentence with the inferred word to see if the sentence makes sense. 4. Repeat if needed.
		Suggested language: • *Do you see any words around that word that give you clues about what it could be?* • *Read that again. Does that make sense?*
SUPPORT	**Instructional Pivots**	**Possible ways to differentiate instruction:** • Remind students to self-monitor as they read to make sure what they are reading makes sense. • Write or read a sentence, leaving one word out. Ask students to use their prior knowledge and context clues to figure out the word. Reconsider materials, setting, instruction, and cognitive processes.
	Partner Strategies	These strategies may provide support before, during, and after teaching this strategy: • *Cross-Check: Do the Words Look Right? Sound Right? Make Sense?* • *Use Prior Knowledge and Context Clues (Expand Vocabulary)* • *Check for Understanding; Monitor and Self-Correct*