

## Strong Active Terms (SAT) Workout

So you don't have a dictionary handy, and you need to figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word? Don't worry. One way to determine the meaning of a word is to use the context clues, or surrounding words to help you understand the general meaning of a sentence.

### Example:

I understand your **quandary**—as an animal lover, you don't want to dissect a frog. However, dissecting an avocado is not a logical substitute.

Ⓐ excitement Ⓑ dilemma Ⓒ nervousness Ⓓ joy

The correct answer is Ⓑ dilemma. Why? Notice how the words *don't want to dissect a frog* and *however* support the meaning of *quandary*. Those context clues tell you that *quandary* has a negative connotation. It is not a positive word. If you're still not sure of the answer, try plugging in each of the answer choices to see what fits.

The following sentences provide context clues to the meaning of words that appear in the October 2006 issue of Writing. Use them to help you select the correct definitions.

- Frank is an eco-**zealot**. He pickets the offices of the Environmental Protection Agency everyday.  
Ⓐ enthusiast      Ⓑ snob      Ⓒ perfectionist      Ⓓ troublemaker
- "I **abhor** tardiness in my classroom," said Mrs. Punctual to her students.  
Ⓐ welcome      Ⓑ approve      Ⓒ hate      Ⓓ test
- In a forest full of **sloths**, Tim the Tiger was hard at work building a shelter from the coming storm.  
Ⓐ renegades      Ⓑ do-nothings      Ⓒ anteaters      Ⓓ giants
- The **duplicitous** clues left behind by the Peppermint Army sent the soldiers in Thyme running in the wrong direction.  
Ⓐ accurate      Ⓑ deceptive      Ⓒ torturous      Ⓓ precise
- I'm looking for a comic that **lampoons** selfish people and illustrates the value of generosity. Can you help?  
Ⓐ honors      Ⓑ promotes      Ⓒ understands      Ⓓ satires
- When Madame Zyra gazed into the **prophetic** ball, she saw Angelina in a wedding dress.  
Ⓐ picky      Ⓑ predictive      Ⓒ medicinal      Ⓓ steel
- Stealth** technology makes ships and missiles less visible to radar and other detection methods.  
Ⓐ expensive      Ⓑ advanced      Ⓒ terrific      Ⓓ secretive
- Martha the Bee was surprised to see her hive **teeming** with activity. She thought all the worker bees were on strike.  
Ⓐ bursting      Ⓑ watching      Ⓒ sounding      Ⓓ empty
- "This **anecdotal** evidence is not enough to overturn the case," the judge said. "It's based on your personal experience."  
Ⓐ factual      Ⓑ probable      Ⓒ story-like      Ⓓ slim
- Our graduation ceremony was a **tedious** affair. Even the teachers were falling asleep.  
Ⓐ dull      Ⓑ exhilarating      Ⓒ celebratory      Ⓓ fun