4. If you recognise a part of the unknown word it may help you figure out the meaning.

e.g. If you know what a pharmacy is, it may help you work out that ***pharmacology*** is the study of drugs.

5. Sometimes a sentence can help you to make a logical prediction about what a word might mean.

e.g. As it hadn’t rained for ten years in the desert, the ground was extremely ***parched***.

6. Authors sometimes use synonyms in the same sentence to help you figure out new words.

e.g. Jane’s puzzled face dropped as she looked at the quizmaster. “I’m ***flummoxed,***” she said quietly.

7. The sentence may contain a comparison or a contrast that gives you helpful clues.

e.g. The twins were opposites in many ways; while Marie could be counted on to always be on time, James was always ***tardy***.

***Understanding Vocabulary***

***What do good readers do when they don’t understand a word?***

1. Re-read the 2-3 sentences that came before the tricky word to see if there are any clues.

e.g. As the hikers climbed higher along the mountain trail the weather started to close in. An hour later it was blowing a gale and beginning to snow. They began searching for a cave or an outcrop where they could seek ***refuge*** from the ***deteriorating*** conditions.

2. Read the 2-3 sentences that came after the word to see if there are any clues. Sometimes the author will give an example or definition.

e.g. Dr Lambert is a ***paediatrician***, a doctor who specialises in children’s medicine.

3. Sometimes other words in a list can give you clues to help work out what an unknown word means.

e.g. Grapes, dates, figs and ***pomegranates*** were popular treats for early Egyptian people.

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