

# Detective Words: Context Clues

Grade 2 • ELA • Using context clues for vocabulary • Standards: L.2.4

*Read each sentence like a detective. Use the other words around the underlined word as clues to figure out what it means!*

1. The dog was happy and wagged its tail. What does wagged mean?

- A) moved back and forth
- B) ate
- C) slept

2. I was thirsty, so I drank some water. What does thirsty mean?

- A) hungry
- B) needing a drink
- C) tired

3. The kitten is tiny. It can fit in my hand. What does tiny mean?

- A) very small
- B) very big
- C) very loud

4. Mom will repair my broken toy. She will fix it with glue. What does repair mean?

- A) throw away
- B) fix
- C) break

5. The sun is bright today. I need to wear my sunglasses because the light hurts my eyes. What does bright mean?

- A) dark
- B) cold
- C) having strong light

6. We spotted a rabbit in the garden. We saw it eating carrots. What does spotted mean?

- A) painted dots on
- B) saw
- C) heard

**7.** The baby began to weep when she dropped her toy. Tears ran down her face.  
What does weep mean?

- A) laugh
- B) sleep
- C) cry

**8.** I was exhausted after running all day. I was so tired that I went to bed early. What does exhausted mean?

- A) very hungry
- B) very tired
- C) very happy

**9.** The movie was dull and boring. Everyone wanted to leave early. What does dull mean?

- A) exciting
- B) not interesting
- C) funny

**10.** The chef will combine the eggs and flour. She will mix them together to make cake batter. What does combine mean?

- A) separate
- B) cook
- C) mix together

## Answer Key — Detective Words: Context Clues

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. A) moved back and forth (*Dogs move their tails back and forth when happy*)
2. B) needing a drink (*The clue is that the person drank water*)
3. A) very small (*Something that fits in a hand must be very small*)
4. B) fix (*The second sentence says she will fix it*)
5. C) having strong light (*The light hurts the eyes, so bright means strong light*)
6. B) saw (*The second sentence says we saw it*)
7. C) cry (*Tears running down the face means crying*)
8. B) very tired (*The sentence says so tired and went to bed early*)
9. B) not interesting (*Boring and wanting to leave means not interesting*)
10. C) mix together (*The second sentence explains that combine means mix together*)