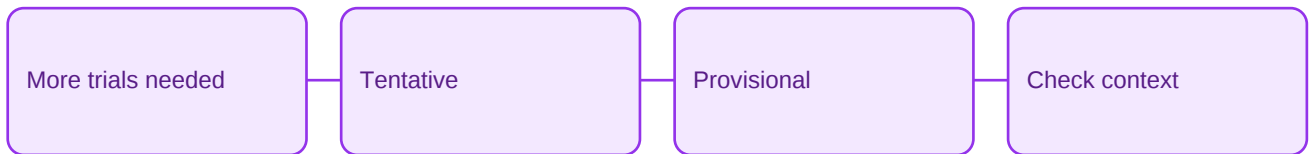


Vocabulary in context

Infer a word's meaning from context and reject meanings that change the sentence.



Reasoning at a glance

1. Context controls meaning

A word can have several dictionary meanings. Nearby actions and descriptions determine the sense used in this passage.

2. Clues in explanations

A definition, example or restatement can explain an unfamiliar term. Look for what the writer says the subject does.

3. Contrast clues

Although, but and unlike can identify a meaning by contrasting it with another quality.

4. Tone and intensity

Choose a meaning with the right tone and strength. Possible does not mean certain, and critical can mean analytical rather than hostile.

5. Substitution check

Replace the target word with a candidate meaning. Check whether the sentence still expresses the writer's intended point.

A common error

A valid dictionary sense may fail in the particular passage.

Prerequisites: Read short academic texts and use nearby clues

Version 1.0. Reviewed 2026-09-17. Selected skill coverage.

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/higher-ed-professionals/sat-validity/content-domains>