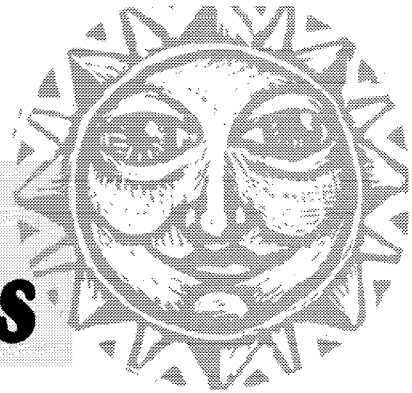


Daily *warm-ups*



VOCABULARY

J. WESTON
WALCH
PUBLISHER
Portland, Maine

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ISBN 0-8251-4320-9

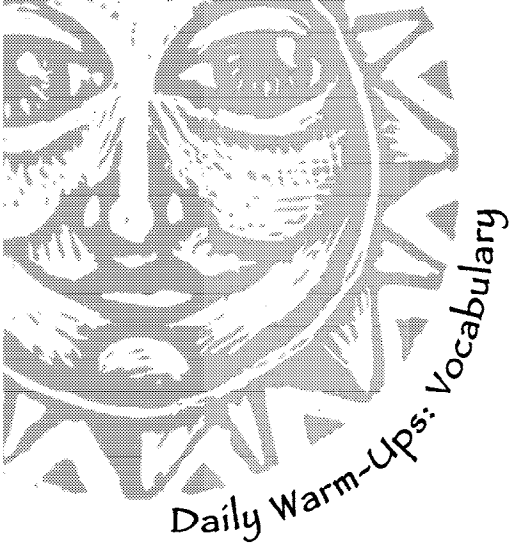
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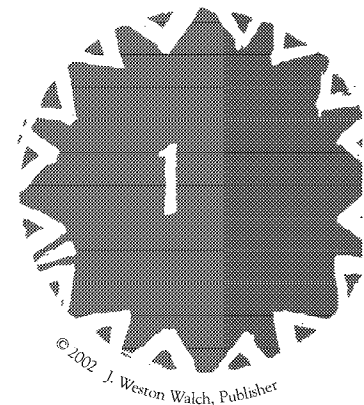
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Printed in the United States of America



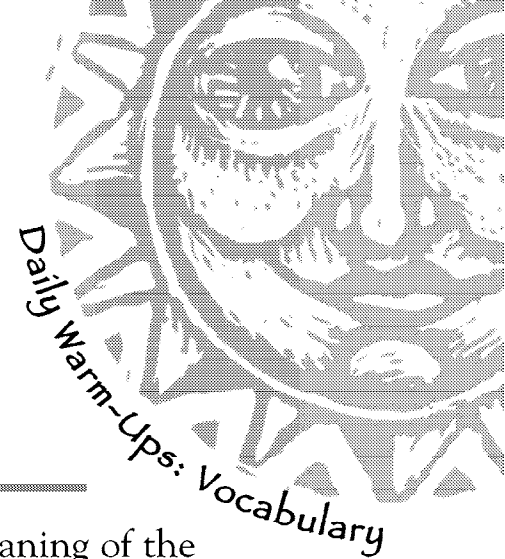
Mark Twain once said that the difference between the right word and the one that is almost right is like the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.

Think of five other word pairs like the one in the sentence. Write them below.



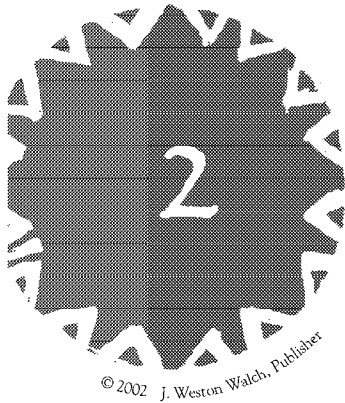
One way to figure out the meaning of an unknown or unfamiliar word is to look for the **context clues** in a sentence. One type of context clue is called *definition*, or restatement. In this, the writer defines the meaning of the word in the sentence or gives enough explanation for the meaning to be clear.

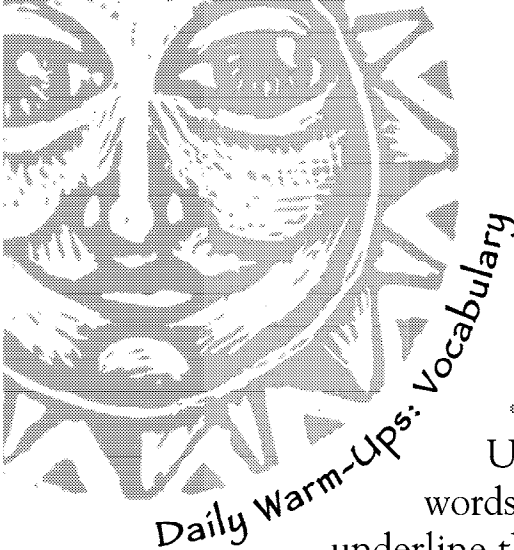
Example: The committee voted to *augment*, or increase, the training program budget.



Use the context clues to figure out the meaning of the words in bold type. Write your definition of the word. Then underline the context clue.

- (a) It was unacceptable for the moderator to **berate**, or scold, the panel members.
- (b) The **contusion** on the patient's arm was one of several bruises on his body.
- (c) The feeling of **melancholy** was evident by the sad, depressed mood of the crowd.



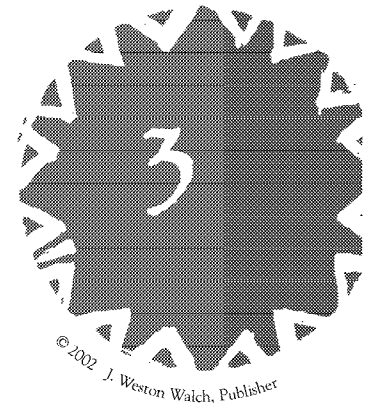


Examples or summaries are other types of context clues that can be used to infer the meaning of a word. The writer provides examples that illustrate the word.

Example: Many *felines*, such as cheetahs, leopards, and lions, live in Africa.

Use the context clues to figure out the meaning of the words in bold type. Write your definition of the word. Then underline the context clue.

- (a) The river was full of **noxious** materials such as pesticides from the nearby farms.
- (b) Many of the students at the preschool were **precocious**. One child had learned to read at the age of two.
- (c) When attending a job interview, you should practice **decorum**; for example, dress well, be prepared, and thank your interviewer.



Comparison and contrast is another type of context clue that can help you determine the meaning of an unfamiliar word. With this type of clue, the meaning of an unknown word can be unlocked by comparing it with another key word.

Example: My grandmother is *parsimonious*, but she is not nearly as cheap as my grandfather.

Use the context clues to figure out the meaning of the words in bold type. Write your definition. Then underline the context clue.

- (a) We can appreciate the relative safety of our lives when we see the **perilous** conditions of those in other cultures.
- (b) Although Bonnie was **exuberant**, the other fans mourned the team's loss.
- (c) The **dromedary**, like other desert animals, can go for long periods of time without water.

