

Guessing meaning of vocabulary from context while reading

There are several techniques that allow you to make a reasonable guess about the meaning of vocabulary that you don't know in something that you are reading. Each of these methods is briefly explained below.

1) A definition or other helpful information about the vocabulary may be provided in the sentence. Often it is included in a set of parenthesis (), after a dash - , or after a comma , .

Example:

There are several drawbacks,, or disadvantages, to walking home without a jacket on a rainy day.

What does "drawbacks" mean? How do we know?

2) sometimes more information is provided in another sentence or part of the sentence.

Example:

A school system in one country isn't identical to the system in any other country. It can't be exactly the same since every country has different culture and history.

What does identical mean? How do we know?

3) Sometimes simple logic can be used to figure out meanings of words.

Example:

A country's education system is a mirror that reflects the culture and history of that country.

What does "reflects" mean? How do we know?