Vocabulary Strategy

CONTEXT CLUES

You can sometimes figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by finding **context clues** in the same sentence, or within the surrounding paragraph. This can be particularly helpful when you are reading nonfiction about an unfamiliar topic. For example, a clue to the meaning of the vocabulary word *domesticate* can be found in line 42: "selective breeding for desired traits." Using context clues, we can infer the meaning of *domesticate.*

Directions: Use context clues to write a definition for each boldfaced word.

1. Roy bought a dog from a **reputable** breeder who is respected by other owners.

   _____

2. The **astute** owner shrewdly wrote the contract to work out to his advantage.

   _____

3. The **novice** workers were not very experienced, although they were willing to learn.

   _____

4. The host was a model of **decorum,** displaying perfect manners and excellent taste.

   _____

5. Max was **tenacious** in studying for the test and persistently practiced math formulas.

   _____

6. By **persevering** and never giving up, the team came from behind to win the game.

   _____

7. The committee **convened** for the meeting by assembling at the steps of city hall.

   _____

8. Despite its appearance, the dog was **innocuous** and as harmless as could be.

   _____

9. The **intrepid** firefighters bravely fought the blaze courageously and without fear.

   _____