

HOW DO YOU FIND WORD MEANING IN CONTEXT?

You can find word meaning in context when you come to a new word in a reading passage. Look for clues to help you figure out what the word means. Clues might be in the sentence where the word is found. Clues may also be in the sentence just before or just after the one where the word is found. Read the passage below. See if you can figure out what the word *mimic* means.

My cousin Tori is five years old. She likes to do everything I do. If I make a face, she makes a face. If I cross my legs, she crosses her legs. When I do my math homework, she will try to mimic me by making scribbles on the paper. She even groans like I do when a math problem stumps me.

Think about what the word *mimic* means.

Let's find the word meaning in context.

First, let's narrow down the clues.

The chart below shows three sentences: the one that comes before the word *mimic*, the one that contains the word *mimic*, and the one that comes after the word *mimic*.

Look carefully at the sentences that come before and after the word *mimic*.

If I cross my legs, she crosses her legs.	When I do my math homework, she will try to mimic me by making scribbles on the paper.	She even groans like I do when a math problem stumps me.
Before		After

Now think about what the clues in the sentences tell you:

Tori crosses her legs whenever her cousin does.

Tori pretends that she is doing homework when her cousin does math homework.

Tori also makes the same noises her cousin makes when a math problem stumps her.

So, the word *mimic* must mean _____

You just found word meaning in context!