Name: _____ Date: _____

Types of Context Clues

Study these four common types of context clues. Think about what information in the sentence is useful and what is not. Working with your partner, see if you can come up with different examples for at least two of the types.

Definition–the word is defined directly and clearly in the sentence in which it appears.

> "The arbitrator, the neutral person chosen to settle the dispute, arrived at her decision."

Antonym (or contrast)–often signaled by the words *whereas*, *unlike*, or *as opposed to*.

> "Unlike Jamaal's room, which was immaculate, Jeffrey's room was very messy."

> "Whereas Melissa is quite lithe, her sister is clumsy and awkward."

Synonym (or restatement)–other words are used in the sentence with similar meanings.

> "The slender woman was so thin her clothes were too big on her.

Inference–word meanings are not directly described, but need to be inferred from the context.

> "Walt's pugnacious behavior made his opponent back down."

> "The man gigged the large fish, but he needed his friend to enlarge the hole to drag it out of the frigid water."