

# THE VOCABULARY STRATEGY

To figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word that you come across while reading:

**1. Look for Context Clues** in the Words, Phrases, and Sentences Surrounding the Unfamiliar Word

**2. Look for Word-Part Clues** Within the Unfamiliar Word

A. Try to Break the Word into Parts. (If you can't, skip to Step 3.)

B. Look at the Root Word. What does it mean?

C. Look at the Prefix. What does it mean?

D. Look at the Suffix. What does it mean?

E. Put the Meanings of the Word Parts Together. What is the meaning of the whole word?

**3. Guess the Word's Meaning** (Use Steps 1 and 2.)

**4. Try Out Your Meaning in the Original Sentence** to Check Whether or Not It Makes Sense in Context

**5. Use the Dictionary**, if Necessary, to Confirm Your Meaning