



# ELA Virtual Learning

# 6-8 Essential Literacy

May 13, 2020



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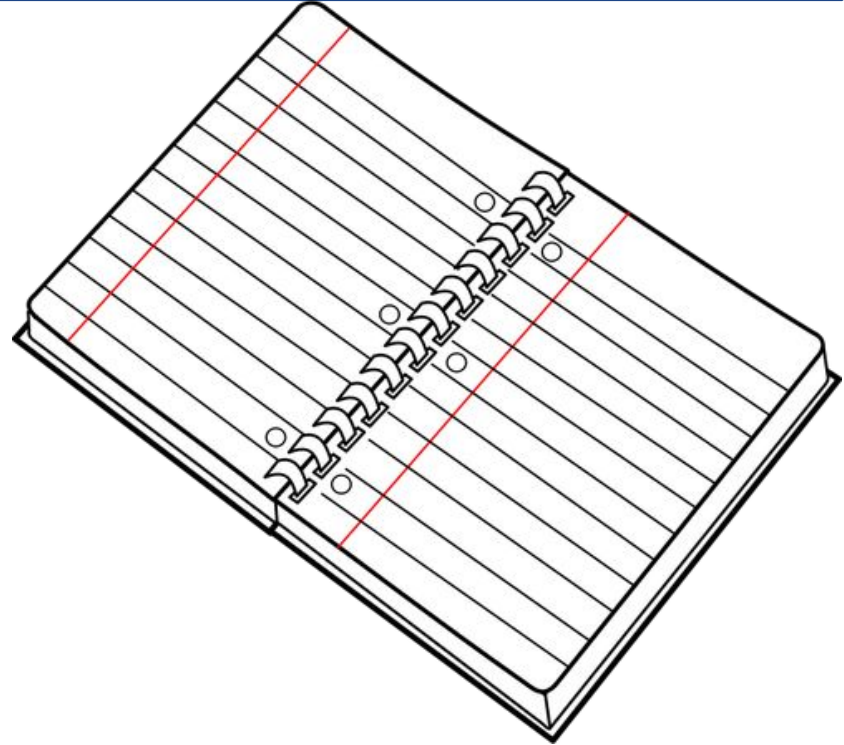
### Lesson: Wednesday, May 13, 2020

#### **Objective/Learning Target:**

I can determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text.

# Warm Up

Start a space for today's work. You might start a new page or skip a few lines from earlier work. Put today's date and leave room for your work as you go.



Write this definition: ***Context clues are hints in the writing that help you figure out what a word means.***



# Warm Up

Choose something to read for 5 minutes.

Here are some options to choose from:

- A chapter in your reading book
- An article from a magazine or newspaper
- An online article

As you read, look for words you might not know the meaning of and try to guess what you think they mean.

**5:00**

Stop



# Learn

Here are some common types of context clues and how to use them to determine meaning:

**Root / affix:** People who study birds are experts in *ornithology*.

*Since “ology” means study of so ornithology is study of birds*

**Contrast:** Unlike mammals, birds *incubate* their eggs outside their bodies.

*Mammals babies grow inside bodies, so UNLIKE that incubate means babies grow in eggs.*

**Logic:** Birds are always on the lookout for *predators* that might harm them,

*If predators harm them, it must mean something that hunts birds.*

**Definition:** *Frugivorous* birds prefer eating fruit to any other kind of food.

*Frugivorous must mean eats fruit since frugivorous birds prefer fruit.*

**Example:** Some birds like to build their nests in *inconspicuous* spots--

High up in the tops of trees, well hidden by leaves.

*Inconspicuous must mean hidden or hard to see since it says that in the sentence.*



# Practice

On the next slides you will find portions of an article from newsela.

## Science

### [What teenage brains can teach us about thinking creatively](#)

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff

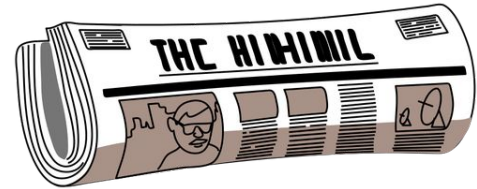
Published:05/03/2020

Word Count:731

Recommended for:Middle School - High School

You can click on the article title if you want to read the entire article online.

Number your paper 1-3. As you read try to infer the meaning of bold blue words in context.





# Practice

Teens invent dances. They make up slang words. Millions of people watch their Minecraft and makeup videos. Millions of dollars are made from their work.

So why don't teenagers get more credit?

Adults often criticize teens. They say youths cannot control their emotions. Recently, we learned more about the brain from a study. It has helped us to understand teenagers' behavior better.



# Practice

Specifically, we learned about the brain's prefrontal cortex. It is the part that handles planning and decision-making. It is not fully grown until around the age of 25. So, teenagers are more likely to take risks.

This part of the study helped to explain *adolescents'* sometimes confusing behavior. However, it left adults more focused on how teens take risks. They did not praise the brain's role in learning and creating. That has frustrated some researchers.





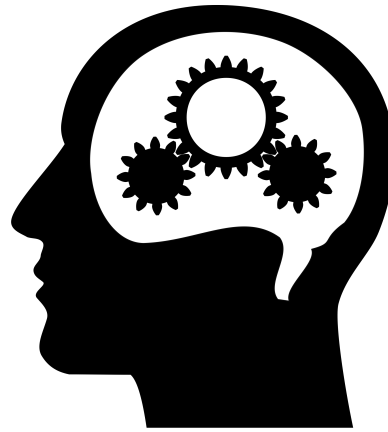
# Practice

## Our Brains Grow At Their Own Pace

The report on adolescent development came out in 2019. The research was carried out by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The report found that some news headlines did not tell the whole story. Adults have been too concerned with teenagers' fragility. In turn, many completely misunderstood recent science.

# Practice

The report is part of a growing effort. Nonprofit groups and scientists are rewriting the story. It is true that the "emotional" and "logical" parts of teens' brains grow at different speeds. But that is not always a bad thing, researchers said. We easily overlook something. Risk-taking can help teens learn and grow.





# Practice

## Preparing For Adulthood

Adriana Galván helps to lead UCLA's Developmental Neuroscience Laboratory. UCLA is short for the University of California, Los Angeles. Fearlessness is exactly what makes adolescents creative. It can lead to social change too, she said.

The teenage brain's characteristics help to prepare them for adulthood. They gain a sort of superpower in learning and creativity. Teenage brains can quickly adjust, like in childhood. They build up new connections. Unused connections are shed. But teens also start to think abstractly. That is an adult ability. Teenage brains can imagine the future, Galván said. They also can make social connections.

# Practice

## Brains Respond To Positive Feedback

Recent research has focused on other brain regions. Such parts involve teenagers' social and emotional development. It appears that these regions do not develop by themselves. They are building connections to other parts of the brain. The prefrontal cortex is just one of those parts. That process is just as important as the maturation itself.





# Practice

For example, Galván has researched the brain's striatum. It is a region connected with reward-seeking behavior. She wanted to understand its connection to the hippocampus. That brain region is associated with learning and memory. Her work suggests that the connection is especially strong in teens.

It appears that adolescents learn from positive feedback. They are more likely than adults to learn that way. Positive feedback could be used more in education, she said. Teachers could use that reward system to help the students learn, she said



# Practice

## Teen Brains Are Wired For Risks

Joanna Lee Williams is an education professor at the University of Virginia. She contributed to the National Academies report. Risks can be healthy, too, she said. Deciding to join the marching band would be an example.

That does not mean lifting all limits on teenage behavior. But parents and educators can start by understanding one thing. Some risks are good, Williams says. They are key for learning and creating.

# Practice



Williams admits she is looking from a birds-eye view. The findings will not solve all **conflicts** between adults and teenagers. Still, teens' sensitivity to rewards means they might not just ignore risks. Instead, they might think of them positively. Adults can take advantage of that. They might not need to jump to punishment. Rewards can help teens to better learn from mistakes.



# Practice

## Teens Have A Lot To Contribute

The adolescent brain does not grow alone, Galván said. It develops "in different environments," she said. Families would be an example. Any change in an environment can change a teenager's growth, for better or worse.





# Practice

Williams sees "an age of opportunity" for adolescents. We know better how they learn. However, that does not mean it will be easy. There are still challenges.

She sees teens leading social movements. They bring energy. Throughout history, teens have brought new ideas into public life, Williams said. The newer science explains why.



# Practice

1. Read the sentence below from the Introduction [paragraphs 1-6].

This part of the study helped to explain adolescents' sometimes confusing behavior.

Which word could replace "adolescents" WITHOUT changing the meaning of the sentence?

- A. students
- B. children
- C. females
- D. teenagers



# Practice

2. Read the selection below from the section "Teen Brains Are Wired For Risks."

The findings will not solve all conflicts between adults and teenagers. Still, teens' sensitivity to rewards means they might not just ignore risks.

What is the definition of "conflicts" based on the context clues?

- A. arguments
- B. relationships
- C. confusions
- D. contests



# Practice

3. Read the selection below from the section "Teens Have a Lot to Contribute"

The adolescent brain does not grow alone, Galván said. It develops "in different environments," she said. Families would be an example. Any change in an environment can change a teenager's growth, for better or worse.

What is the definition of environment" based on the context clues?

- A. nature surrounding a city
- B. surroundings, conditions, or influences
- C. pollution
- D. a specific classroom



# Practice Answers

1. D teenagers
2. A arguments
3. B surroundings, conditions, or influences



# Additional Resources

If you would like to find more interesting articles, some specifically geared to students, check out [newsela](https://www.newsela.com).

