

Retrieval Coffee Morning

Tuesday 29th November 2016

What is retrieval? ► The process of getting something back from somewhere.

Retrieval in reading

To remember what we mean by retrieval, we can think about a dog!

This is a Golden Retriever. These dogs were often bred for a special job. They were expected to run, collect things and bring them back to their master. This collection of an item is known as, 'retrieval' - explains the name!



Retrieval in reading

- ▶ In a similar way, when we read, we can retrieve information by going back to the text and collecting the words that we need.

'find and copy'

- Surely, a question that asks us to copy from the text should be really easy to answer?
- Unfortunately, these questions are not always as simple as they appear. They often test a range of different reading skills

Why are these questions tricky?

Sometimes the question uses words that we are unfamiliar with.

Sometimes we have to think about what the text is *suggesting*.

Sometimes the questions need us to use a series of clues to find the answer.

Sometimes we are unsure which parts of the sentences need including.

Why do they children need to know?

Key stage 2 question level analysis summary for English in 2016

St Agnes RC School (3023502)

Key	KS2 Reading Strand	Marks	% Correct Response	% National	% Difference from National	% Attempted School	% Difference from National
1	give / explain the meaning of words in context	10	59	58	1	92	8
2	retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction	15	61	67	-6	94	0
3	summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph	1	19	22	-3	100	26
4	make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from text	18	47	49	-2	87	1
5	predict what might happen from details stated and implied	3	40	38	2	86	-7
6	identify / explain how information / narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole	1	54	65	-11	95	-1
7	identify / explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases	2	46	58	-12	98	1

‘Find and copy’ retrieval

Some questions will ask us to find and copy the word (or group of words) that means _____.

This means we need to use our understanding of a word and find one (or a group of words) in the text with a similar meaning then copy it down.

Last night, the unthinkable happened. The majestic *Titanic* sank on her maiden voyage.

It is thought that the huge vessel came into trouble with an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Titanic - thought to have been 'unsinkable' - was journeying from Southampton to New York

when the fatal incident occurred. It is not yet clear how many people have survived this tragic event.

The White Star Line Company ship was transporting 1,324 passengers and 885 crew members across the ocean.

Further information will be reported once *The Morning Paper* receives it.

A question might ask us to find and copy information to complete a table or diagram.

The ocean sailed by the ship	
Amount of passengers	
Building company name	
Object that caused the sinking	

Find and copy retrieval

Answer

For each section of this table, you need to use your **scanning** skills.

1 - Scan for the word, 'ocean' in the text. The only ocean name there is the Atlantic Ocean. This is the ocean sailed by the ship. You only need to copy the words **Atlantic Ocean**.

2 - Scan for the word, 'passengers' in the text. The table wants an amount so you need to find and copy a number. It says there were 1,324 passengers. You only need to copy **1,324**.

Find and copy retrieval

Answer

3 - Scan for the word, 'company' in the text. The word is only used once. The group of words containing it all have capital letters, suggesting they are proper nouns and so would be the name of the company. You need to copy **White Star Line Company**.

4 - You now to scan the full text to find the object that sank the ship. The only object reported to have caused trouble for the Titanic is an iceberg. You need to copy **iceberg**.

Introduction to thinking about words

Many find and copy questions rely on a good understanding of the vocabulary being used.

They often use question stems, such as

Find and copy a word that means...

Find and copy a word that means the same as...

Find and copy the group of words that show...

Find and copy the word/group of words that

suggest... Find and copy the word that tells you...

This can create problems when trying to answer these questions. If we are not sure of the meaning of the word in the question, or not sure of some word meanings within the text, we cannot be sure of what we should be copying.

A silly example...

Below, is an example that uses a nonsense word to demonstrate how important word meaning is.

Find and copy the word in the text that suggests the character feels **disinfilterfated**.

We have no idea what the word **disinfilterfated** means (because it is totally made up) and so it is extremely difficult to find a word in the text to match it.

This means we need to build strategies for understanding word meanings within a context.

Word meaning in context

How do we find the meanings of words if we are not allowed to use a dictionary?

Discussion:

Can you and your partner think of any way to understand an unfamiliar word without using a dictionary or asking someone?

Within reading, we can use the **context** to gain an understanding of words.

Word meaning in context

Discussion:

What do you think the term, 'context' might mean?

By 'context', we actually mean the sentences and information that surround the word. It could be the sentence that contains the word, it could be the sentences before, or even the sentences after.

There are some different strategies you can use when trying to use the context to understand word meaning. The following slides will cover several of these strategies.

Word meaning in context - Examples

When we use the context of the writing to understand word meanings, we are looking for **context clues**. One type of context clue we can use is to look for **examples**.

The cafe served a range of **beverages**. They had milk, cola, water and tea.

This sentence is giving the reader several examples of **beverages**. Using our knowledge of the world we work out that those things are all drinks and therefore **beverages** must mean drinks.

Word meaning in context - Examples

Question

The waitress offered us some **condiments**. She explained that they had salt, pepper, ketchup or mayonnaise.

Answer

Word meaning in context - Synonyms

Another type of context clue we can use is to look for **synonyms** within the sentence.

Discussion:

Talk with your partner about what you think a **synonym** could be. If you already know what a synonym is, talk about how this could help us with word meaning.

A **synonym** is a word that shares a similar meaning with another word. E.g. unhappy is a **synonym** for sad.



Word meaning in context - Synonyms

We can use **synonyms** to help us with understanding word meanings. If we know the meaning of one word in the sentence, then we can use that to help us work out the meaning of the unfamiliar word.

I don't just hate bullies, I absolutely **detest** them!

In this sentence, the writer is expressing feelings about bullies. The first word that shows their feelings is hate. **Detest** must have a similar meaning to hate. From the sentence, it appears that **detest** is a stronger feeling of hatred towards something.

Word meaning in context - Synonyms

Question

The sea was so calm that day. In fact, it was perfectly **tranquil**.

Can you give a definition of the word in bold?

Answer

Word meaning in context - Antonyms

Another type of context clue we can use is to look for **antonyms** within the sentence.

Discussion:

Talk with your partner about what you think an **antonym** could be. If you already know what an **antonym** is, talk about how this could help us with word meaning.

An **antonym** is a word that has the opposite meaning to that of another word. E.g. dull is an **antonym** for shiny.

Word meaning in context - Antonyms

We can use **antonyms** to help us with understanding word meanings. If the sentence structure makes it clear that two words are opposite in meaning, then we can use the meaning of one to understand that of the unfamiliar word.

The elephant was extremely clumsy and awkward when it moved, unlike the gazelle, which demonstrated how **nimble** it was.

Word meaning in context - Antonyms

In this sentence, the writer is describing the movements of two animals. It says the gazelle is unlike the elephant when it moves.

We know that the description of the gazelle's movements is the opposite of the elephant's.

The elephant is clumsy. Therefore, **nimble** must mean the gazelle moves in an easy, quick and accurate way.

Word meaning in context - Antonyms

Question

My friend was upset that her cake tasted disgusting. Mine, on the other hand, was utterly **delectable**.

Can you give a definition of the word in bold?

Answer

Word meaning in context - Explanations

Sometimes within the context of surrounding sentences we are given an **explanation** of what the word means. This type of context clue isn't always the most obvious to identify.

The text will not explicitly say, 'this is an explanation of the word _____'. However, the meaning of the sentence around the word will give an **explanation** of its meaning.

Word meaning in context - Explanations

The lady was in a huge amount of pain and had to visit the dentist. The feeling in her tooth was **excruciating**.

This sentence explains that the lady is having to visit her dentist because her tooth is causing her lots of pain. It has **explained** that the word **excruciating** means to cause lots of pain or be painful.



Word meaning in context - Explanations

Question

David had to take his puppy to dog-training classes in order to make it more **obedient**.

Can you give a definition of the word in bold?

Answer

Words that show (feeling)

This style of find and copy question will often ask you to identify the word/group of words that show a certain feeling.

- Your first step is to think, ‘how would I show that I was feeling in this way?’
- Then, check the text. Do any actions, spoken words or descriptions match your thoughts?
- Finally, identify and copy the exact part that shows that feeling.

Words that show (feeling)

Walking towards the building, my stomach was doing somersaults - and not in the good way! I felt dwarfed by the size of the building; it wasn't what I had been used to for the past seven years. The sleeves on my blazer hung over my hands but Mum had assured me I would grow into them.

Find and copy a group of words that show the writer is nervous.

Words that show *nervous*

What sort of things would you do if you were nervous?

- You might become a little shaky or begin to sweat. Some people fidget or fiddle with their hands. Other people struggle to speak in a fluent manner.

What things do you feel happening on the inside when you are nervous?

- Sometimes we talk about ‘butterflies in the tummy’. This phrase is used to describe the feeling we might get if we are nervous or excited.
- Your heart might beat faster, or you might experience changes in breathing.

Words that suggest

When we ***suggest*** something, we leave hints for the reader to help them reach a certain opinion about a person/place/situation etc.

E.g. If I wanted to **suggest** the sinking of the Titanic was a tragedy, I would use lots of emotive vocabulary about how devastating the event was.

If a brochure **suggested** a country was a great place to visit, they might include lots of hints about all the exciting activities that country has to offer.

Words that suggest

E.g. Find and copy the word that suggests the crowd did not think the invention was a good idea.

These questions can be very different from each other in what they are asking the reader to look for.

They could be asking for:

- actions of characters/people in the text
- words that have been spoken
- words that describe the setting
- clues that something is going to happen
- qualities of a person or thing
- reactions to people or events

Words that suggest

E.g. Find and copy the word that suggests the crowd did not think the invention was a good idea.

For this question, it would seem that a crowd have been shown a new invention and they have reacted to it in a way that suggests they do not like it and do not think it will work.

Once again, you could try to think about what you would do, or how you would act/react, if you did not think something was a good idea.

Words that suggest

The First Flight

Two famous brothers are credited with inventing the first aeroplane. Wilbur and Orville Wright first took their marvellous machine off the ground in 1903. This amazing display of engineering had never been seen before and the Wright brothers had experienced a lot of negativity in their developing of the invention.

When they announced their proposal for a flying machine, the audience that had gathered to listen, laughed out loud at the men and booed their technical explanations.

Words that suggest

E.g. Find and copy the word or group of words that suggests the crowd did not think the invention was a good idea.

Think about what you might do if someone told you their idea and you did not think it was a good one. In the text, we can see that the audience (another word for crowd) booed the Wright brothers when they presented their ideas.

You would copy:
booed (their technical explanations)