



Vocabulary in Action: The Pumpkin Regatta

Mission: The Pumpkin Regatta article has four tricky words. Mark each word and its context clue, figure out the meanings, and prove you can use the words in your own writing.

Big question: How do context clues in a real text help us understand new vocabulary?

★ Warm-up: Guess and check

Guess each meaning, then check after reading.

colossal ✓ **Very large.**

jubilant ✓ **Very happy.**

Key vocabulary

Regatta	A boat race.
Colossal	Extremely large.
Topple	To fall over.
Jubilant	Full of great joy.

1 Box 1

Mark the clues

In the simulator: Use Context clue to highlight the clue sentences for "colossal," "wobble," and "jubilant."

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Word meanings

Match each word to its meaning.

Sort: regatta · colossal · wobble · jubilant

a boat race	extremely large	move unsteadily	full of joy
regatta	colossal	wobble	jubilant

3 Box 3

Which clue?

What kind of clue helps with "regatta"?

☐ A definition right after the word ("a boat race") ☐ An antonym ☐ An example list

✓ **A definition right after the word ("a boat race")**

4 Box 4

Use them

Write a short paragraph (3 sentences) about a fun event, using "colossal" and "jubilant" correctly.

Look for: Uses colossal; Uses jubilant; at least 25 words

5 Box 5

Legend: explain with a quote Legend only

Explain how the author helps you understand "colossal." Quote the clue.

Look for: Connects the clue to the meaning; an exact quote from the text; at least 14 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How do context clues in a real text help us understand new vocabulary?

Look for: Authors often place clues near tricky words: a definition after a comma (regatta, a boat race), a comparison (heavier than a grand piano), or a description of what happens.

Reading around the word helps you figure it out.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	185-E
 Investigator	1J6-I
 Legend	1QQ-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "Any comparison is a simile." It is a simile only if it uses like or as.
- "Context clues are always in the same sentence." Sometimes they are in the next sentence.
- "Idioms mean what they say." Their meaning is not literal.