



### Objective

The student will identify the meaning of words in context.

### Materials

- ▶ Text  
*Choose text within students' instructional-independent reading level range.  
Copy and attach to the student sheet.*
- ▶ Student sheet
- ▶ References (e.g., dictionary or glossary)
- ▶ Pencil

### Activity

**Students identify unknown words, determine their meaning, and rewrite sentences to demonstrate understanding.**

1. Place references at the center. Provide each student with a copy of the text and a student sheet.
2. The student reads the text silently and thinks about the meaning.
3. Rereads the text and underlines unknown words. For example, Pam dashed after the balloon.
4. Writes the underlined words on the student sheet (i.e., dashed).
5. Writes definition for each word using a dictionary or glossary (e.g., to hasten). If student encounters definition that is also unknown, continues to investigate until word is understood (e.g., hasten means to run quickly).
6. Rewrites sentence by using the learned meaning. For example, Pam ran quickly after the balloon.
7. Continue until all unknown words are defined and used in rewriting original sentences.
8. Teacher evaluation

Unknown Word	Definition	Sentence
dashed	ran quickly	Pam ran quickly after the balloon.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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**A Day at the Zoo**

One day at the zoo, Pam and her mother bought a red balloon. Pam grasped the balloon by its string. She enjoyed watching it bounce in the wind. As Pam's mom paid for their hotdogs, Pam's balloon slipped out of her hand. Pam dashed after the balloon. The balloon kept floating higher and higher. Finally, Pam glanced around and her mother was no where to be found. She yelled, "Mom, Mom!" But there was no reply. Pam saw a police officer and told him what had happened. The police officer walked Pam to the hotdog stand. She ran up and hugged her mom. Her mom was frantic and told her never to run off like that again. Pam told her mother that she would tie the string of the balloon to her wrist next time.

### Extensions and Adaptations

- ▶ Use defined words to write new sentences or paragraphs.

# Name \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning Maker

V. 035

Sentence										
Definition										
Unknown Word										