



# **DIAMONDS OR COAL**

## A Context Clues Strategy Lesson

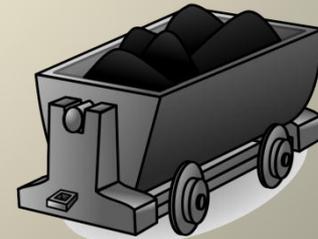
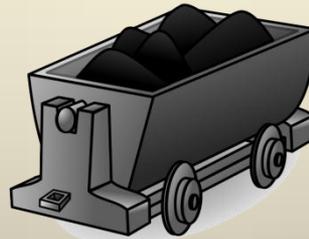
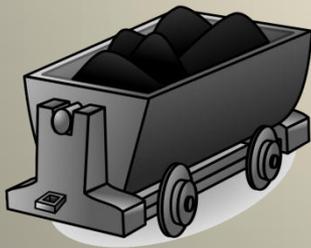
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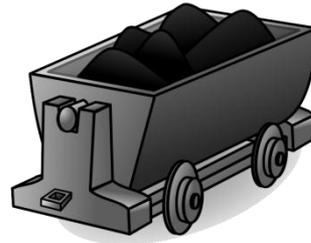
For more ideas visit:

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<http://devotedtovocabulary.wordpress.com/>





## **DIAMONDS OR COAL**

### Context Clues Strategy Lesson

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Is your sentence filled with **diamonds** (words that help you figure out the meanings of any unknown words) or **coal** (words that don't help you understand at all).

**Diamonds** include definitions, restatements, examples, comparisons or contrasts, descriptions, synonyms or antonyms given with the new word.

We need to learn how to find each kind of **diamond**! They are valuable.

What can we do about the **coal**?

- Learn more about the **diamonds**, after all **coal** turns into **diamonds** given enough time and effort!
- Carefully reread.
- Look for other clues; picture clues, prefixes, suffixes, compound word, or word parts.
- Make a guess based on the first letter(s). See if your idea makes sense.
- Find help; friend, parent, teacher, dictionary (glossary, if it is a non-fiction book).

The **diamond** and **coal** cards are meant for student use during independent reading. He or she can make a stack of diamonds found and coal strategies used during reading.

# FINDING RESTATEMENTS and DEFINITIONS

Look for:

**commas**

**dashes**

*Example:*

*We usually eat poultry – chicken, turkey, or duck – when eating out.*

And look for these words and phrases:

**as**

**or**

**that is**

**such as**

**in other words**

*Examples: I was in a real predicament, in other words, I was in trouble.*

*Fred had never seen so large an urn, or vase, before.*

# MY COMPARE and CONTRAST TOOLKIT



## Comparing Words

When you compare one subject to another, you show how the two are **alike**.

like  
similar to  
same  
in the same way  
too  
both  
have in common  
the same as  
similarly  
as well as

## Contrasting Words

When you contrast two subjects, you show how they are **different**.

although  
yet  
however  
but  
while  
differ  
instead  
unlike  
on the contrary  
contrary to  
even though  
on the other hand  
the reverse

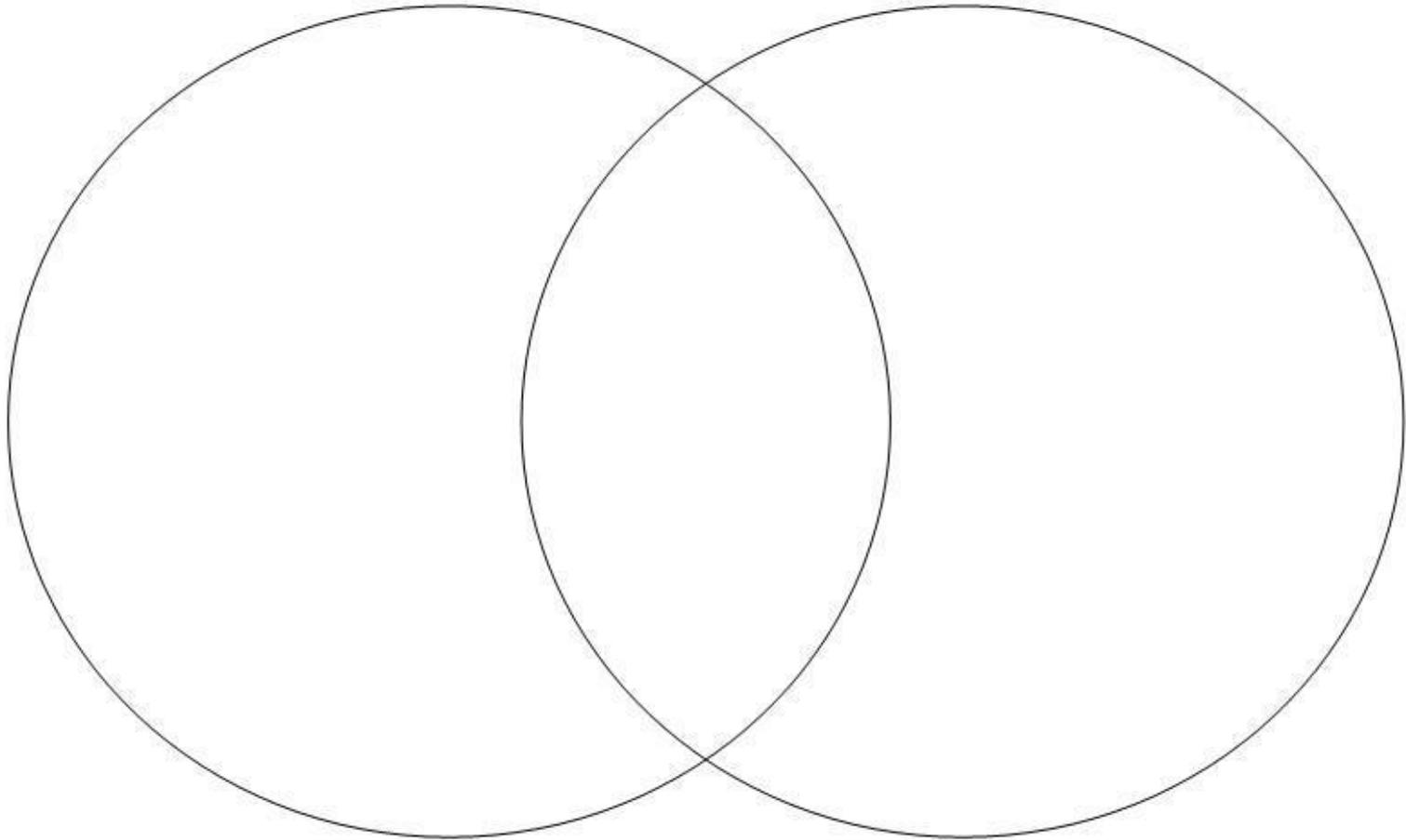
# Notice the Compare and Contrast Words

There are **differences** between a car and a bike. **In contrast to** a car, a bike usually holds only one person and has two wheels. Another **difference** is that a car is usually used for longer distances while a bike is for shorter distances. However, you might be surprised to find out that cars and bikes have some things that are **the same**. For instance, **both** cars and bikes provide transportation. Another **similarity** is that **both** use metal in their frames. Bikes can be built with steel, aluminum, or titanium, **while** cars are always made with steel. Also, they are **alike** because they **both** take you places, although a car usually takes you there much faster than a bike! Can you tell another similarity and difference?

# Venn Diagram

Car

Bike





I found a definition.



I found a restatement.



I found an example.



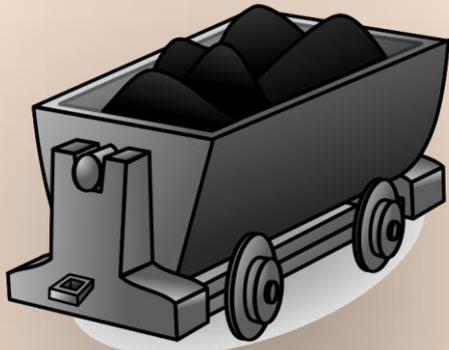
I found a comparison or contrast.



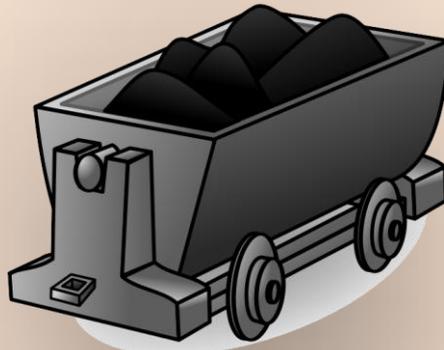
I found a description.



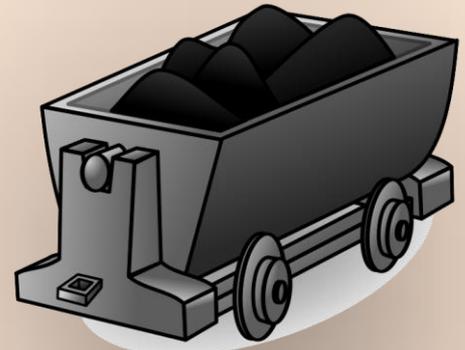
I found a synonym or antonym.



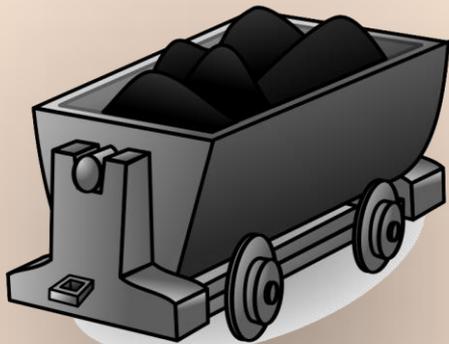
If my sentence gives me coal, I can think about the diamonds.



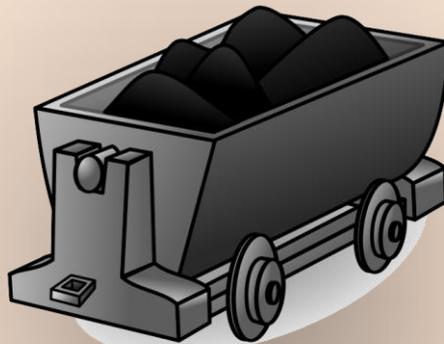
If my sentence gives me coal, I can carefully reread.



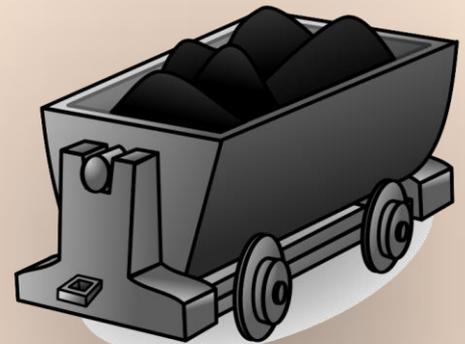
If my sentence gives me coal, I can look for other clues, like picture clues, prefixes, suffixes, and word parts.



If my sentence gives me coal, I can make a guess based on the first letter (s).



If my sentence gives me coal, I can find a person to help.



If my sentence gives me coal, I can use a glossary or dictionary for help.