

## WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

It's important to understand unfamiliar words so that you can interpret the overall meaning of a sentence.

Misunderstanding a tricky word can prevent you from understanding the meaning of a text.

It's a good idea to have a plan for working out the meaning of unfamiliar words, especially when you don't have a dictionary to hand.

You can:

- Use the **surrounding words** to see if there are any clues.
- Decode the word by **breaking it down** into sounds or words that you know.

Watch this video to learn how to make sense of words that are unfamiliar or tricky.



WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

What do you think the words in bold below mean?

Remember:

- use the surrounding words for clues...
- 'decode' the word by breaking it down into sounds/ words you know

The car was **hindered** by the snow on the road so we couldn't get to school.

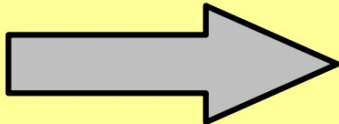
There was a **miniscule** speck of dirt on my trainers, but I couldn't even see it.

It was so **serene** sitting on the quiet beach, with waves lapping at the shore and the gentle breeze blowing through the palm trees. I almost fell asleep!

WALT use our knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to work out the meaning of new words

Look at this 'root word', **appear**. How many other words can we make from this using prefixes and suffixes?

This is a word family!



appear  
disappear  
disappearance  
disappeared  
disappearing  
reappear  
reappearance  
reappeared  
reappearing

## WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

### Robin Hood and Little John

They'd passed the graveyard on the edge of the village by the light of a full moon, and the hoot of an owl signalled their passage. They spent the next few hours **trudging** through the gloom of the forest on their way back to Nottingham. Mist hung about the ground at knee height, giving the forest an **ethereal** feel. Robin's friend, Will, turned to him and confessed quietly he wasn't happy about the uncomfortable silence which **enveloped** the woods. Usually, even at such an early hour, the woods were filled with noises, but tonight all was deathly silent.



*Let's read  
the text  
together:*

They reached the river crossing just after dawn had broken and found a sun-dappled space to sit, eat and rest a while before crossing the water into the part of the forest inhabited by **outlaws**. Robin stood and stretched before retrieving his pack, his quiver and his bow. "Come on!" he said to Will, who lay napping on the heather and he nudged him with the toe of his boot. "How much longer is it?" said Will screwing up his face and shielding his eyes from the low hanging sun, "we've been walking all night!"

"Not much further," said Robin, "but keep your wits about you now...you never know who is lurking in the woods on the Wester' side."

## WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

in Hood and Little John



Let's try 1 together before we check in a dictionary:

They'd passed the graveyard on the edge of the village by the light of a full moon and the hoot of an owl guided their passage. They spent the next few hours **trudging** through the gloom of the forest on their way back to Nottingham. Mist hung about the ground at knee height, giving the forest an **ethereal** feel. Robin's friend, Will, turned to him and confessed quietly he wasn't happy about the uncomfortable silence which **enveloped** the woods. However, even at such an early hour, the woods were filled with noises, but at the moment all was deathly silent.

They reached the river crossing just after dawn had broken and found a small open space to sit, eat and rest a while before crossing the water into the heart of the forest inhabited by **outlaws**. Robin stood and stretched before opening his pack, his quiver and his bow. "Come on!" he said to Will, who lay on the heather and he nudged him with the toe of his boot. "How much longer is it?" said Will screwing up his face and shielding his eyes from the bright hanging sun, "we've been walking all night!" "Not much further," said Robin, "but keep your wits about you now...you know who is lurking in the woods on the Western side."



Vocabulary Focus

1. Use a dictionary to find the word 'ethereal' can you write a definition for it in your own words?

Look for clues!



## WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

in Hood and Little John

They'd passed the graveyard on the edge of the village by the light of a full moon and the hoot of an owl guided their passage. They spent

the next few hours **trudging** through the gloom of the forest on their way back to Nottingham. Mist hung about the ground at knee height, giving the forest a **creaky** feel. Robin's friend, Will, turned to him and confessed quietly he wasn't happy about the uncomfortable silence which **enveloped** the woods. However, even at such an early hour, the woods were filled with noises, but everything felt all too deathly silent.

They reached the river crossing just after dawn had broken and found a small open space to sit, eat and rest a while before crossing the water into the heart of the forest inhabited by **outlaws**. Robin stood and stretched before opening his pack, his quiver and his bow. "Come on!" he said to Will, who lay sleeping on the heather and he nudged him with the toe of his boot. "How much longer is it?" said Will screwing up his face and shielding his eyes from the bright hanging sun, "we've been walking all night!" "Not much further," said Robin, "but keep your wits about you now...you know who is lurking in the woods on the Western side."



Let's try 4 together now:

4. Outlaw is a compound word made of two smaller words. What do you think it means?

What words do we know in this word?

WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

*Have a go at all the questions on your own:*



### Vocabulary Focus

1. Use a dictionary to find the word 'ethereal' can you write a definition for it in your own words?
2. What do you think the word 'enveloped' means?
3. Which word in the text tells you that outlaws lived in the forest?
4. Outlaw is a compound word made of two smaller words. What do you think it means?
5. What does the word trudging tell us about the way the two of them move through the forest?
6. Which word in the second paragraph means someone is 'lying in wait?'

WALT work out the meaning of new words in context

Answers:

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing answers. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.



