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You know lots of words already. You learned most of them from listening to people talk. You learned words from listening to your parents. You learned words from listening to your teachers. You also learned words from your friends.

When people say a word, they often give clues about what it means.



If you heard this teacher, you could easily figure out the meaning of enormous. Her voice, her hands, and the word biggest all tell you that enormous means “very big.”

When you read, you have only the words to rely on. Usually that’s enough. Read this paragraph about whales.

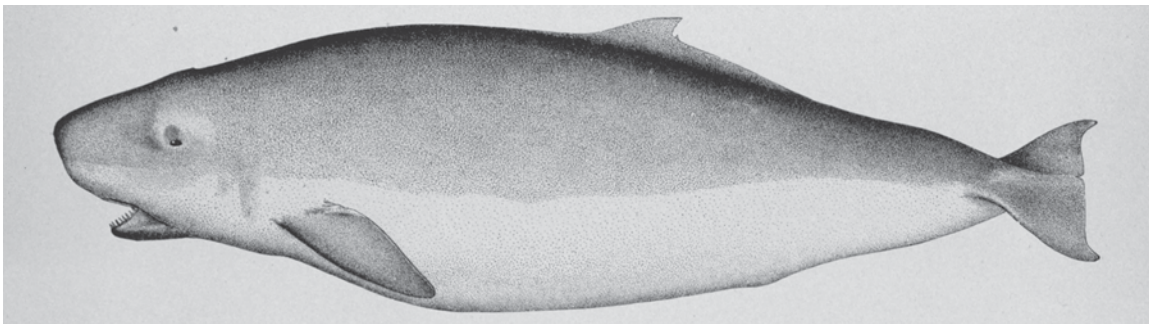
Whales live in the water. They swim underwater, but they cannot breathe underwater. They must come to the **surface** to get air.

Do you know what surface means? If you don't, you can figure it out. Think about what the whole paragraph says. Think about what whales must do to breathe. They must come up to where there is air. So surface must mean the top of the water.

Guided Practice

Listen and follow along as your teacher reads this story.

It was Angela's first trip to the marine park. She was excited by everything she saw there. She loved the leaping dolphins. She loved the scary sharks. She loved the seals with their sleek bodies and their flapping, slapping flippers. Now she was on her way to see the most exciting thing of all—a whale!



Dwarf whale

But when she saw the whale, she was disappointed. “This can't be a whale,” she told her mom. “Whales are huge. This is no bigger than a dolphin.”

“There are different kinds of whales,” her mom explained, pointing to the sign next to the whale's tank. “This is a dwarf whale. It's the smallest whale there is.”



Now answer these questions about words in the story.

A marine park is

- A a park for marines
- B a zoo for sea animals
- C a parking lot for boats
- D a water park

The first paragraph names all the sea animals Angela sees there. This is the clue that a marine park is like a zoo for sea animals. The correct choice is B.

Sleek means

- A smooth and shiny
- B dusty and dirty
- C funny
- D slow

Sleek is used to describe a seal's body. Seals have smooth, shiny bodies. So the correct choice is A.

When someone is disappointed, she

- A is excited
- B goes out of sight
- C forgets to go someplace
- D feels something isn't what she expected

Angela expected to see a huge whale. But the whale was not very big at all. The correct choice is C.

