

Reading Skill: Guessing the meaning of unfamiliar words from context

根據上下文推測詞義

《我的表姐》

我的表姐小麗從小就長得丑——尖臉、小眼睛、扁鼻子，還戴著一副大眼鏡。走路的時候總是低著頭。身邊沒有多少朋友。

三年前她去國外讀書，今年夏天回國休假，我差點兒認不出她了！她的黑髮又長又直；眼鏡也不見了，一雙眼睛亮亮的。丑小鴨變成了白天鵝！

表姐說各個國家的人對美的看法不同，很多外國人覺得她的長相很有個性，很漂亮。找回自信的她，當然和以前大不一樣了！

As you read this passage, you may have circled some words that you've never seen before. If this was a text for your exam and you were not allowed to look up a dictionary, how could you understand it? Don't panic! Do some detective work and look carefully at how these unfamiliar words are used in the text, you can figure out what they mean.

Paragraph 1: By simply looking at words “小眼睛”，“走路.....低頭” and “沒有...朋友”，you know that the word “丑” must be something negative. The verbal phrase “長得+adjective” means “how someone looks physically”. Because her physical appearance is “丑”，that means she has small eyes etc, she is always lowering her head when walking, and has no friends. “丑” must be something opposite of “pretty”.

Task: Now read paragraph 2 and 3 and do your own detective work to guess the meanings of highlighted words.

丑小鴨: pretty bird / ugly bird / ugly duckling / pretty duck

白天鵝: white duck / white bird / white dog / white swan

個性: one man / one student / person / personality

自信: self / letter / believe / self-confidence

Task: Read the text below and guess what 結婚 and 開心 mean:

《我長得像誰？》

我媽媽年輕的時候長得很美，黑黑的眼睛，尖尖的下巴。我的爸爸長得不好看，小眼睛，大方臉，又胖又矮。媽媽比爸爸高很多。我真的不明白他們為什麼會結婚，但是他們在一起總是很開心。我長得像爸爸，但是長得還不錯。每當人家說我長得好看的時候，爸爸總是很高興。他經常說：“我的女兒長得像我，當然是個大美人！”

媽媽很美，爸爸不好看，我不明白他們為什麼……？但是他們在一起很……？

Circle the correct answer:

結婚:

1. be together
2. love each other
3. be married
4. divorce

開心:

1. sad
2. happy
3. angry
4. beautiful