

Ignoring context loses meaning

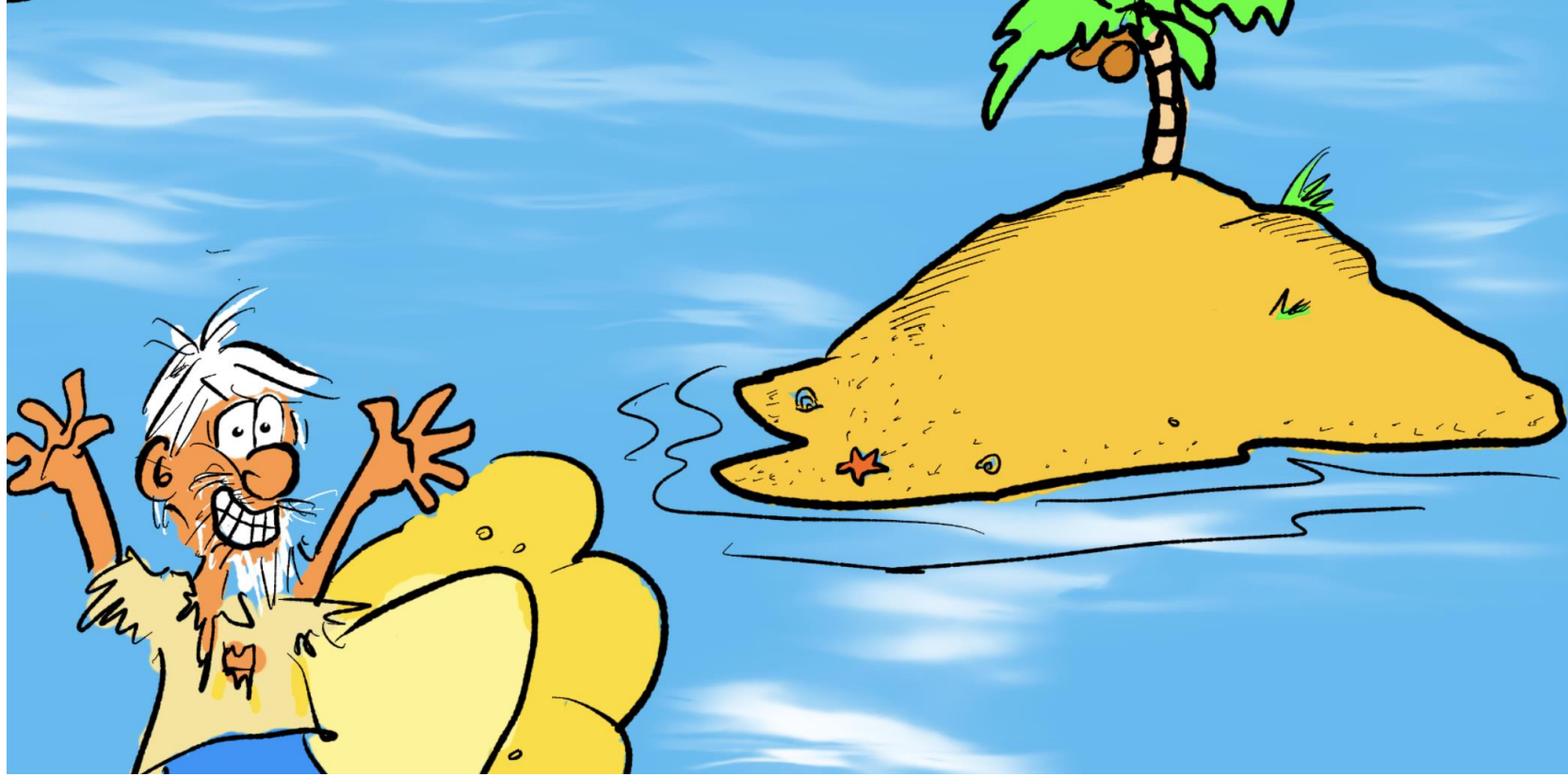
CONTEXT!

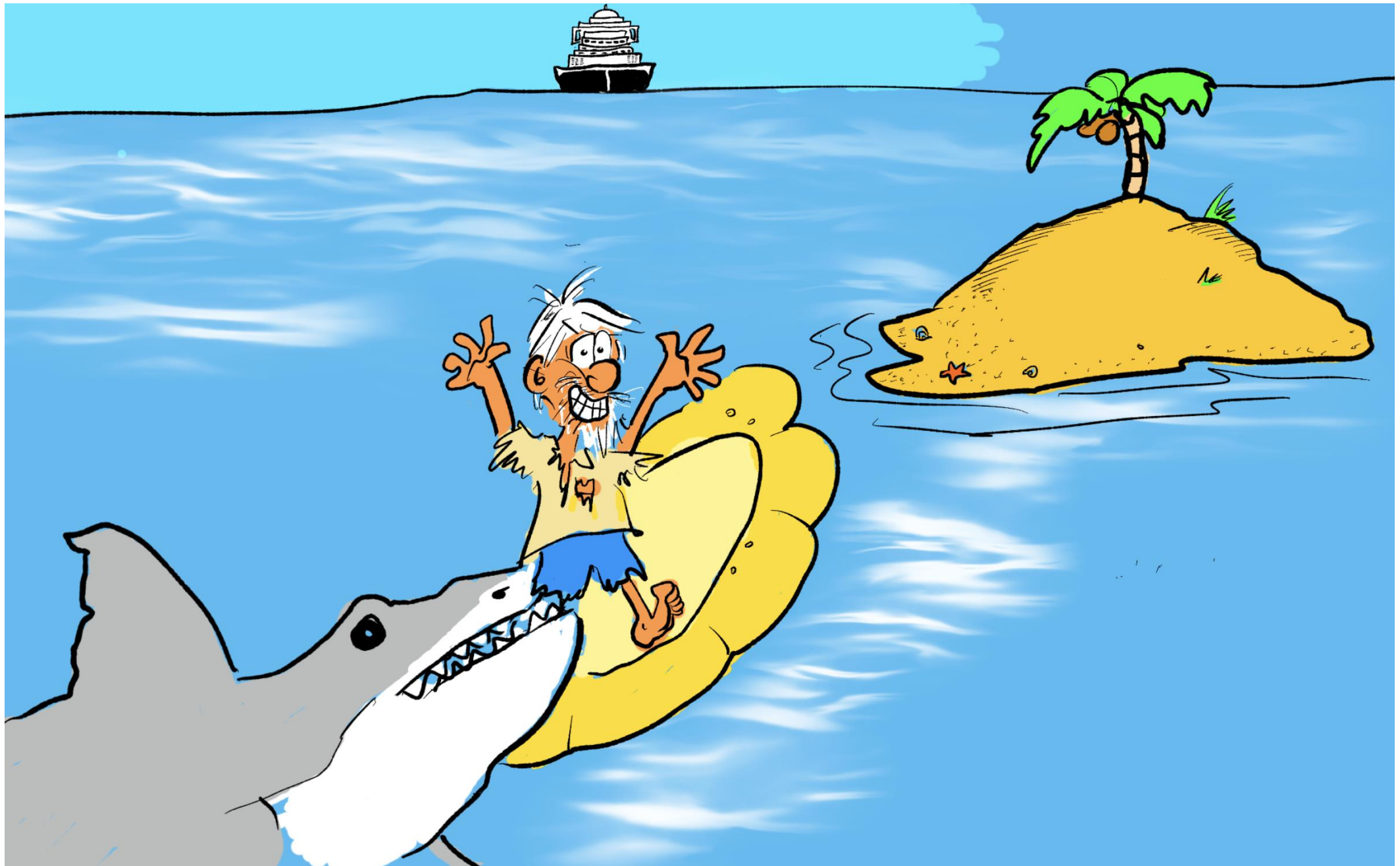


WHO AM I?









Definition versus Meaning

- A dictionary will give you the definition(s) of a word.
- Context will give you the *intended* meaning.

hoy

and 18th centuries. [C15 < MDu. *hoel*]
hoy' (hoi) *interj* a cry used to attract attention or drive animals. [C14 var. of HEY]
hoya ('hoi) n any plant of the genus *Hoya*, of E Asia and Australia, esp. the waxplant. [C18 after Thomas Hoy (died 1821), E gardener]
hoyden or holden ('hoi'dn) n a wild boisterous girl. [C16 perhaps < MDu. *heidin* (weiden) = 'boydenish or 'holdenish adj.
Hoyle (hoil) n an authoritative book of rules for card games. [after Sir Edmund Hoyle, 18th-century E authority on games, its compiler]
H.P. abbrev. for 1. Brit. hire purchase. 2. Also hp horsepower. 3. high pressure. 4. (in Britain) Houses of Parliament. Also (for senses 1-3) H.P.

H.Q. or h.q. abbrev. for headquarters.
hr. or hr abbrev. for hour.
H.R.H. abbrev. for His (or Her) Royal Highness.
H.S. (in Britain) abbrev. for Home Secretary.
H.S.H. abbrev. for His (or Her) Serene Highness.

H.T. Physics. abbrev. for high tension.
Ht. abbrev. for height.

hub ('hʌb) n 1. the central portion of a wheel, propeller, fan, etc., through which the axle passes. 2. the focal point. [C17 prob. var. of AWB]
hubbie-bubbie ('hʌbi'bʌbi) n 1. another name for bubble. 2. burm. 3. a gargling sound. [C17 rhyming jingle based on *stubble*]
hubbub ('hʌbʌb) n 1. a confused noise of many voices. 2. tumult, uproar. [C18 prob. < Irish *hubodubod*]

hubby ('hʌbi) n, pl. -bies, an informal word for husband. [C17 by shortening and abbrev.]
hubcap ('hʌb.kæp) n a metal cap fitting over the hub of a wheel.

hubris ('hʌbrɪs) or hybris ('haɪbrɪs) n 1. hubris (in Greek tragedy) an excess of ambition, pride, etc., ultimately causing the transgression's pain. [C18 < Gr. *hubris* 'the act of being arrogant']

huck ('hʌk) n 1. a coarse, absorbent fabric made of cotton fabric used for towels, etc. Also huck ('hʌk) [C17 < ?]
huckster ('hʌk.stər) n, pl. -sters, 1. an American street hawking either dark blue berries or the fruit of this shrub. 2. a Brit. name for a wheeler-dealer. [C17 prob. var. of huckster]

huckster ('hʌk.stər) n, pl. -sters, 1. a person who uses aggressive or opportunistic methods of selling. 2. a person who sells small articles or goods. 3. a person who writes for trade or persuasive advertisements. ~vb. 4. (tr.) to peddle. 5. (tr.) to sell or advertise aggressively or opportunistically. 6. to haggle over. [C18 < huck 'to haggle over']

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humanism

hug ('hʌg) vb. hugging, hugged. (also *intr*) to clasp tightly, usually with affection. ~vi. 2. to keep close to a shore, left, etc. 3. to cling to (beliefs, etc.); cherish. 4. (tr.) to embrace (oneself). ~n. 5. a tight or affectionate embrace. [C16; prob. of Scand. origin] ~-gably adv.

huge ('hʌdʒ) adj. extremely large. [C12 < OFr. *huic* 'hugely adv. ~hugely adv.]

huggermugger ('hʌg.mʌg) n. 1. confusion or secrecy. 2. a large number of people. 3. a large crowd. 4. in confusion. ~vb. (tr.) to keep secret. 5. (intr.) to act secretly. [C18 < ?]

Huguenot ('hʌg.ju.nə) n, pl. -nots, 1. a French Calvinist, esp. of the 16th or 17th centuries. [C16 < ?] 2. designating the French Protestant Church opposed annexation by Savoy, u.t. from E. Europe]

huh ('hʌ) n. 1. an exclamation of surprise, derision, bewilderment, enquiry, etc. 2. (in New Zealand) a large beetle with a hairy body. [C18 < Maori]

hula ('hʌ) n. 1. a Maori social gathering. 2. a dance performed by a woman. [C18 < Hawaiian]

Hula-Hoop a Trademark. 1. a flexible whirled around the body by movement of the arms and legs. 2. a toy consisting of a thin strip of material.

hulk ('hʌk) n. 1. the body of an obsolete vessel. 2. Disparaging, a large empty ship or ship. 3. (tr.) to be in a state of being in a prison. [C18 < ?]

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humanitarian

cultural movement of the Renaissance, based on studies. 2. interest in the welfare of people. ~humanist n. ~humanistic adj.

humanitarian ('hju:mən'i:təriən) n. 1. a person having the interests of mankind at heart. 2. a philanthropist. ~humanitarianism n.

humanity ('hju:mənəti) n, pl. -ties. 1. the kindness or mercy. 2. (pl.) (usually preceded by the) the study of literature, philosophy, and arts, esp. study of Ancient Greece and Rome.

humanize or -nise ('hju:mə.naɪz) vb. 1. to make or become human. 2. to make or become humanlike. (~humanization or -nisation n.)

humanly ('hju:mənli) n. the human race. 2. the quality of being human. 3. the kindness or mercy. 4. (pl.) (usually preceded by the) the study of literature, philosophy, and arts, esp. study of Ancient Greece and Rome.

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hunchback

hummingbird ('hʌmɪŋ.bɜ:d) n. a very small plump, long slender bird with brilliant iridescent feathers and wings specialized for very powerful vibrating flight.

hummock ('hʌm.ɒk) n. 1. a hillock; knoll. 2. a ridge or mound of ice in an ice field. 3. Chiefly in the southern U.S. a wooded area lying above the level of an adjacent marsh. [C16 < ?; cf. HUMP]

humoral ('hju:mərəl) n. 1. a person or relating to the four bodily fluids (humours). 2. a piece of music. [C19 < G *Humoreske*, ult. < E *humor*]

humorist ('hju:mərist) n. a person who acts, speaks, or writes in a humorous way.

humorous ('hju:mərəs) adj. 1. funny, comical; amusing. 2. displaying or creating humor. ~humorously adv. ~humorousness n.

humour or U.S. humor ('hju:mə) n. 1. the quality of being funny. 2. Also called: sense of humour. the ability to appreciate or express that which is humorous. 3. situations, speech, or temperament or disposition: good humour. 4. a state of mind; whim. 7. any of various fluids in the body: aqueous humour. 8. Arch. Also called: cardinal plegm, choler or yellow bile, melancholy humour. 9. emotional and physical thought to determine indulgence. 10. a bad mood. ~vb. (tr.) 10. to adapt oneself to: to humour someone's whims. 11. to indulge. 12. to humour someone's whims. [C14 < L *humor*, rel. to L *humor* 'to be wet']

humourless or U.S. humorless adj. ~humourlessly adv.

hump ('hʌmp) n. 1. a rounded protuberance or projection. 2. a rounded deformity of the back, consisting of a spinal curvature. 3. a rounded animal. 4. the hump. Brit. inf. a fit of sulking. 5. (tr.) to form or become a hump; hunch; arch. 6. sexual intercourse with (someone). [C18 prob. < OF *hump*, rel. to L *humus* 'soil']

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Merriam-Webster

Context, in Context

In its earliest uses (documented in the 15th century), *context* meant "the weaving together of words in language." This sense, now obsolete, developed logically from the word's source in Latin, *contexere* "to weave or join together." *Context* now most commonly refers to the environment or setting in which something (whether words or events) exists. When we say that something is [contextualized](#), we mean that it is placed in an appropriate setting, one in which it may be properly considered.

• ***Synonyms of context***

Background

environment

surround

Setting

surroundings

environs

Framework

Circumstances

atmosphere

climate

Relevance



Putting it simply:

Context is the surrounding information that determines meaning.



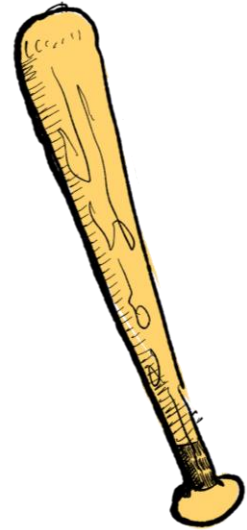
**If WORDS are the
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**CONTEXT SETS
the STAGE**



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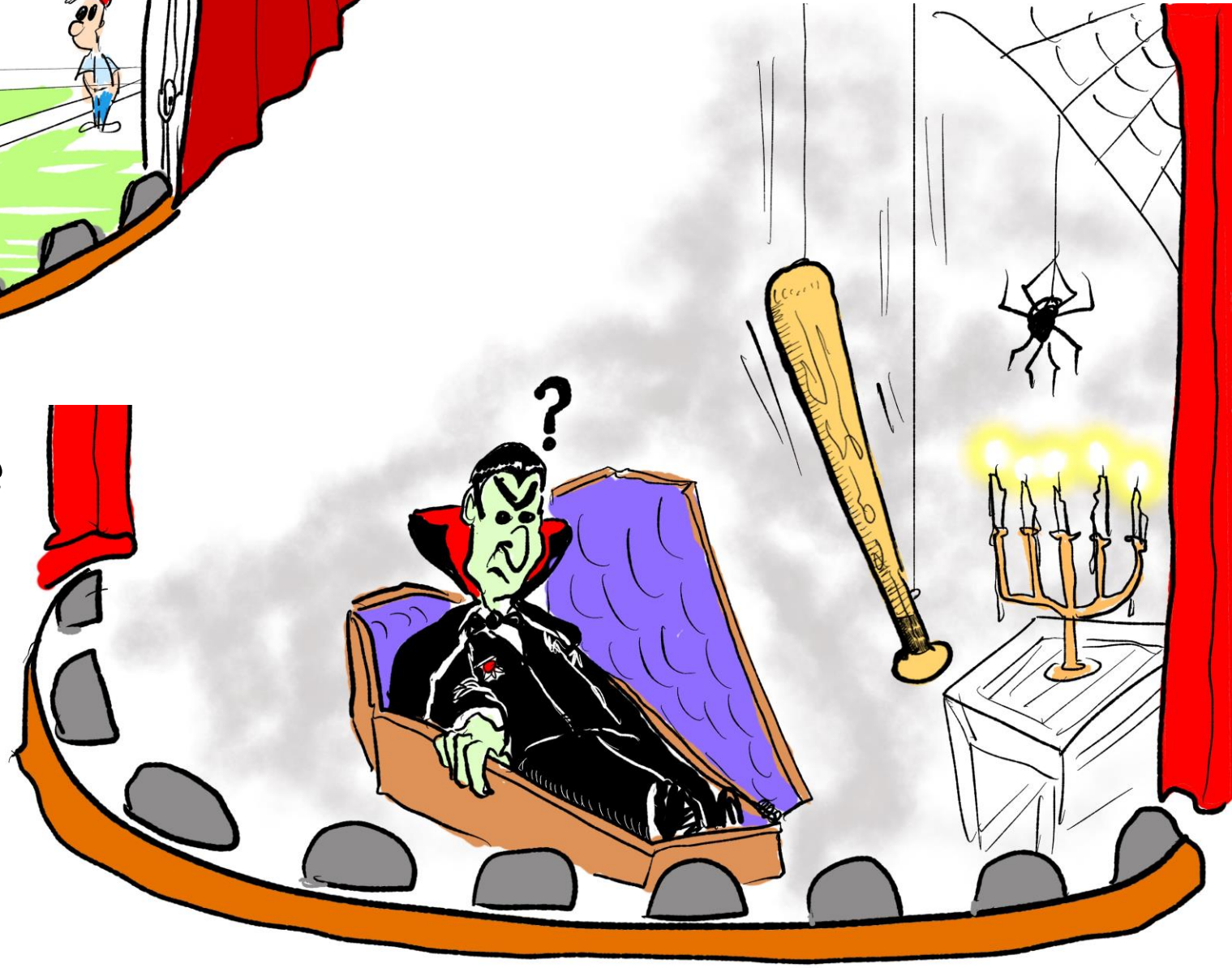
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WORD	MEANINGS
BANK	Financial institution River edge Turn
BAT	Flying mammal Baseball equipment Blinking eyelashes
LIGHT	Illumination Not heavy An illumination source To ignite a flame
RIGHT	Direction, side Entitlement Correct
DATE	Specific time on a calendar A romantic get together To ascertain the age of something A sweet fruit

"shì" (4th tone)

Character

Meaning

是

to be

市

market / city

事

matter / affair

室

room

式

style / form

视

to see / view



- Sometimes **PHRASES** need **CONTEXT** to determine meaning.
- Context **STEERS** meaning.

Types of Context



Immediate

Words closest to the word or phrase in question

“Swing the **bat** and hit the ball.”

Paragraph

The flow of the author’s argument

Phil 4:13 sits in a paragraph about contentment, not achievement

Book (genre)

The purpose and style of writing

Psalms uses mostly figurative language and emotion

Historical

Real world events of the time

Jer 29:11 was written during the time of the exile



**“I don’t care
about the
workers”**



“People accuse me of acting like I don’t care about the workers, but that couldn’t be farther from the truth!”



“People accuse me of acting like I don’t care about the workers, but that couldn’t be farther from the truth! The proposed factory closures would devastate thousands of families and we are trying to avoid layoffs while keeping the company solvent.”





**“Violence is
sometimes
necessary”**



**“Police officers
understand that
violence is
sometimes
necessary”**

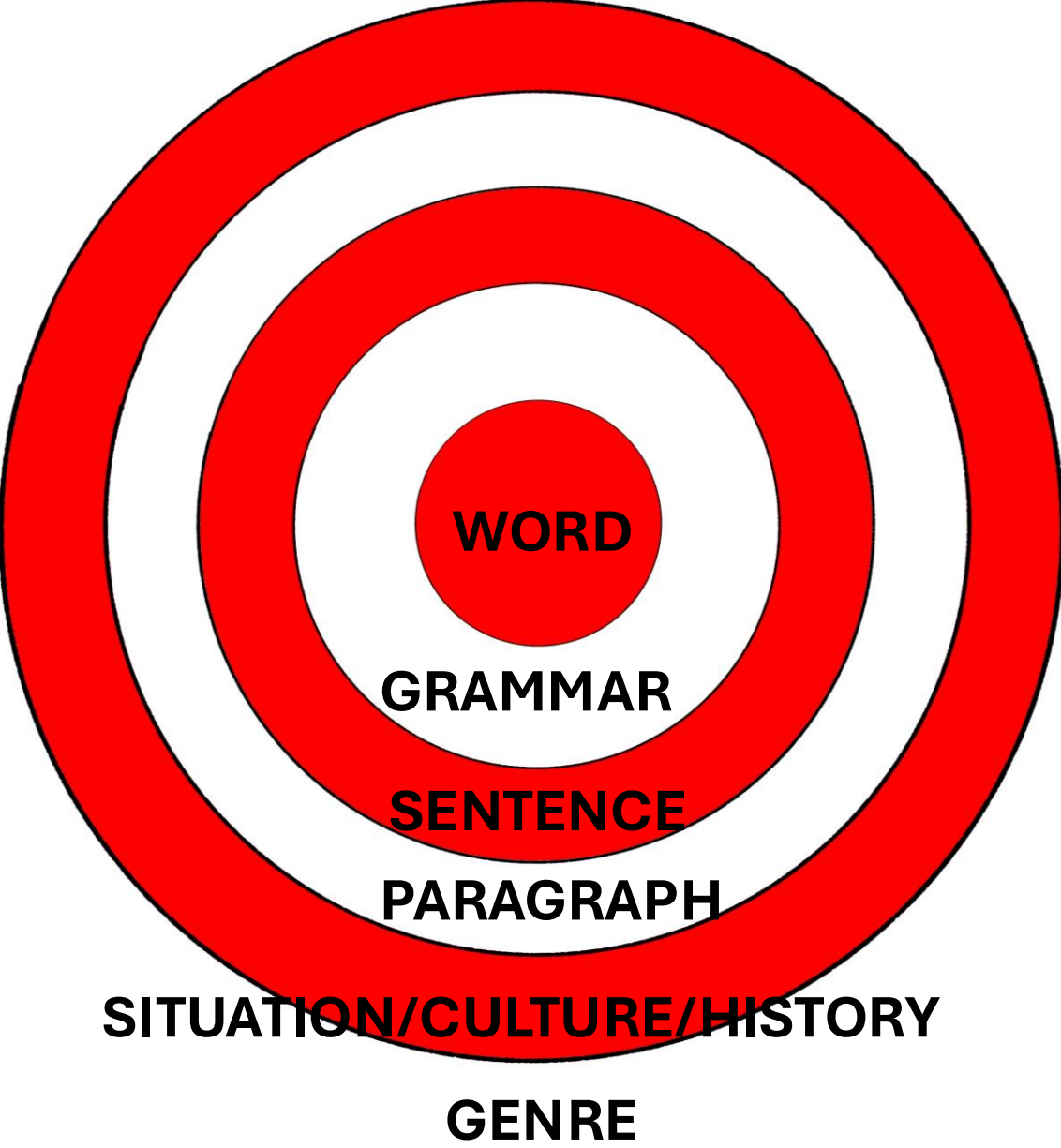


“Police officers understand that **violence is sometimes necessary** to stop active shooters and protect innocent lives”

“Police officers understand that **violence is sometimes necessary** to stop active shooters and protect innocent lives”



Progression of Context



The concept that CONTEXT is REQUIRED for accurate interpretation is CRITICAL for ANY FORM of COMMUNICATION!

—written

—spoken

—visual

—theological...Bible Study!

—secular

—political



People do Bible Study as though they were only looking at one puzzle piece and asking what that puzzle piece represents without looking at the bigger picture.



**Without paying attention
to CONTEXT, we interpret
using**

- feelings**
- past experiences**
- popular interpretations**

but wrong

**Bible study becomes a
Rorschach Test
Or “cloud interpretation”**

Summary:

CONTEXT is the surrounding information needed to determine meaning.

It's the STAGE that sets the meaning.

Without CONTEXT you cannot fully interpret anything accurately.

There are different levels of CONTEXT

Starting with words immediately surrounding the word or phrase in question then expanding outward to higher levels.

NEXT TIME:

PART TWO

Bible Context Workshop

