

Context



Have you ever jumped into the middle of a conversation and didn't understand what was being said? What do you do? Do you ask questions to get the full meaning of what's being communicated so you will understand?

Lets give you a couple of examples:

First,

Let's say, someone said: *"If you prefer small towns, Denver is a bad place to live."*

But, lets say **you only heard:** *"Denver is a bad place to live."*

- Well, it's an accurate quote,
- **BUT** it's not what was meant.
- Important information was left out that was vital to understand the meaning.
- **The info left out was the *context*!**
- Without ***context***, the speaker appears to be simply saying, *Denver is a bad place to live for everybody.*
- **So as a result, the message isn't right and the meaning got distorted.**

Lets take another example.

Let's say someone is talking and they have said something about: *'the trunk'*

But we missed the beginning and the end of the conversation.

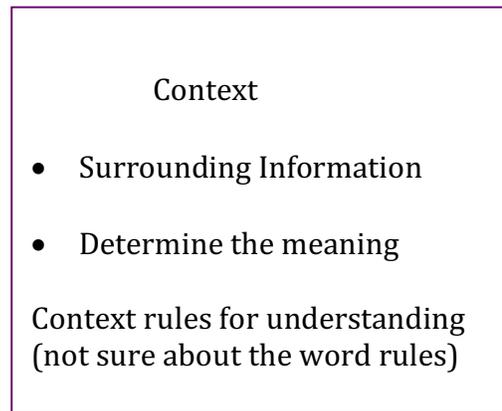
Well, there are several different meanings for the word trunk.

Is it the nose of an elephant... a stem of a tree... the space in the back of a car...or a large box with a lid on it?

But if we had heard, *'the trunk delivered to the house was full of treasures'*, then we would understand the ***meaning*** of the word ***'trunk'*** because the ***context*** determined the ***meaning***.

It's the same thing when you're reading the Bible. You've gotta check out the *surrounding information* to get the *meaning*.

- 'Con' means = 'with'. *Context* means = 'with (the) text'.
- *Context* is the words, phrases, verses, chapters, and/or Books that *surround* what you are reading.



So, when discovering Truth, *context* is a must!

Remember it is the information *surrounding* what you are reading that is absolutely necessary to correctly *determine the meaning* of what you are reading.

A good rule of thumb is to remember: *Context RULES!*

Keep in mind we are instructed “to be diligent to present ourselves approved to God as workmen who will not be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of truth,” (2Ti 2:15).