

## 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.**

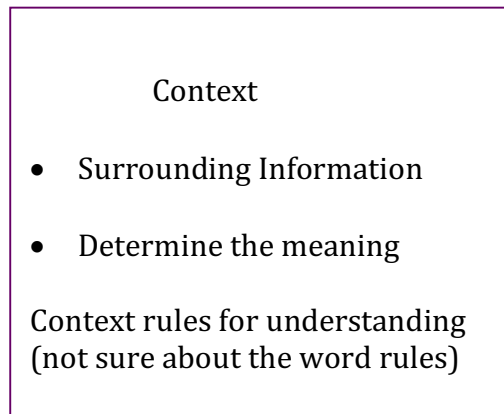
Well, there are several different meanings for the word trunk.

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).