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Q.1 Write a Précis of the following passage, suggesting a suitable title: (20+5=25)

One of the fundamental facts about words is that the most useful ones in our language have many meanings; That is partly why they are so useful; they work overtime ... Think of all the various things we mean by the word "foot" on different occasions: one of the lower extremities of all human body, a measure of verse, the ground about a tree, twelve inches, the floor in front of the stair. The same is true of nearly every common noun or verb.

Considering the number of ways of taking a particular word, the task of speaking clearly and being understood would seem pretty hopeless if it were not for another very important fact about language. Though a word may have many senses, these senses can be controlled, up to a point, by the context in which the word is used. When we find the word in a particular verbal setting, we can usually decide quite definitely which of the many senses of the word is relevant. If a poet says his verse has three feet, it doesn't occur to you that he could mean it's a yard long or is three legged (unless perhaps you are a critic planning to puncture the poet with a pun about his "lumping verse"). The context rules out these maverick senses quite decisively.

Context Decides Meaning

The thing about words is that one word has different meanings on different occasions. However, there is another important side of language: context. Context reins words. In a particular sentence, one can identify what a word could mean by looking at the context.

Words in passage: 195 words
Words in precise: 45 words.