

# Precise

## Title :

The context of a word decides its meaning.

Basically, the words in a language carry many meanings. The word foot has different meanings on different occasions, and same is for verbs and nouns. Therefore, the relevant senses of words depend upon following the context in which they are used. When a poet talks of his verse having a foot, it wouldn't mean a particular length, but poetic diction, rhythm and sounds of words. Thus, context of a word better decides its suitable meaning.

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Total word - 218  
Precise - 75

Target Paragraph:

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 occasion: one of the lower extremities of the human body, a measure of verse, the ground about a tree, twelve inches, - the floor in front of the stairs. 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 relevant. If a poet says his verse has feet, it doesn't occur to you that he could mean it's a yard long or is threelegged (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.