

Name _____

Context Clue Sleuthing Answer Key

1. **convene**: to meet or gather as a group. Clues: "in the auditorium for speeches" versus "small circles" and "goal was discussion."
2. **pragmatic**: practical and focused on what works. Clues: routine change led to line moving quickly and fewer items missing.
3. **sardonic**: dry, cutting, or sarcastic in a slightly mocking way. Clues: calm voice, "No worries" plus an early practice consequence.
4. **ambivalent**: having mixed feelings; unsure between two sides. Clues: praise versus criticism and "felt torn."
5. **vague**: not clear or specific. Clues: "big changes" with no explanation versus specific steps and deadlines.
6. **nonchalant**: appearing casually unconcerned. Clues: shrugged and joked, acted like it did not matter.
7. **cohesive**: working well together as a unified whole. Clues: shared calendar, tasks, clear rules, improved coordination.
8. **disruptive**: causing interruption or stopping normal progress. Clues: cutting others off, audience groaning, moderator warnings.
9. Cause and effect.
10. Cause and effect.
11. Tone.
12. Cause and effect.
13. Answers will vary. Must use the word correctly and include a context clue.
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Teacher's Guide

- Using this worksheet
 - Have students underline the **bold** word and box one or two clue phrases before writing a definition.
 - Require a definition plus evidence so students practice analysis, not guessing.
 - Invite students to label the clue type in the margin: contrast, cause and effect, or tone.