

Working Out a Word from Context

Name: _____

You will not know every word you read. Use the rest of the sentence. Write what you think each bold word means, and underline the clue that told you.

1. The path was so **precarious** that we roped ourselves together and moved one at a time.

2. She spoke in a **brusque** way that was not rude exactly, but left no room for chatting.

3. After three dry months the reservoir had **dwindled** to a brown puddle.

4. The dog's **incessant** barking went on from midnight until nearly four.

5. He was **meticulous** about his tools, wiping and hanging each one before he stopped.

Working Out a Word from Context — Answer Key

precarious — dangerously unsteady (*roped together, one at a time*)

brusque — short and abrupt in manner (*no room for chatting*)

dwindled — shrank steadily (*three dry months, brown puddle*)

incessant — never stopping (*midnight until four*)

meticulous — extremely careful about detail (*wiping and hanging each one*)