Teach/Model

**Define Synonyms and Antonyms** Remind students that context clues are words in a sentence or paragraph that help to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words or phrases. Explain that readers can use context clues to figure out whether an unfamiliar word is a synonym or antonym of a word that they know. Remind students that synonyms are words that have similar meanings, while antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.

To figure out if an unfamiliar word is a synonym or antonym of a familiar word, tell students to:

1. look for context clues that restate ideas or depict opposite situations.
2. use prior knowledge about the content of the selection or the meaning of other words.
3. look for signal words such as *but* or *however* that signify that an unfamiliar word means the opposite of another word in the sentence. For example: *Bruce was a novice at carpentry, but Charlene was an expert.*

Write the following on the board and read it aloud: *The runner sped up and began a final dash for the finish line. Many runners slowed, but the winner ran at a fast pace.*

**THINK ALOUD** I can understand what the word *dash* means by reading the sentences around it. The first sentence says the runner sped up. So, I can tell that *dash* must be a synonym for *race* or *sprint*. When I read that many runners slowed, but the winner ran at a fast pace, I know the word *but* signals a contrast. Fast pace here means the opposite of slow.

Guided Practice/Apply

**Use Context Clues** Write the following sentences on the board. Ask students to identify the synonym and antonym context clues that give the meanings of the underlined words.

1. Tim said, “I am starving.” He was *famished* because he had not eaten all day. (synonym of *starving*)
2. My dog is so overweight that he is *obese*. He has not been thin since he was a puppy. (antonym of *thin*)
3. Be careful driving when the road is wet and *hazardous*. It is only safe when it is dry. (antonym of *safe*)

To reinforce the skill, distribute *Practice, page 291*.