formatting practice

when you are reading and you come across an unfamiliar word what can you do one option is to look for context clues to help you guess what the word means the context means the surrounding text words the surrounding text might provide a definition, example, or restatement of the word also sometimes you can use a words prefix suffix or root as a clue to its meaning of course you can also learn a lot about a word by using a reference material like a dictionary glossary or thesaurus a dictionary will show you the multiple definitions of a word and example sentences the dictionary can give you an idea of the words connotation which means the word’s suggested or implied meaning neutral positive or negative paying attention to how words are used when youre reading and using the dictionary to explore the multiple definitions of a word can improve your ability to make precise word choices precise words are clear and direct words that have a specific meaning, especially in a certain domain like science music or sports for example dig is a general word that means to make a hole in the ground we can use this word in a general or everyday topic however excavate is a more specific word that is used to talk about making holes in a particular domain like archaeology sometimes you can communicate your ideas better by replacing words that are too general with a more precise choice