

# THE TOOTH

## Using Context Clues to Figure Out a Word's Meaning

(Bet you didn't think a Buck Barkley story would have much vocabulary, did you?)

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### ANSWERS

- Buck used to play for a **semi-pro** team in Montana. How does such a team compare with the pros?  
**A. The players have other jobs, and get paid for each game.**  
B. The players aren't good enough to play on college teams so they play on semi-pro teams.  
C. The players were injured on pro teams and play on these teams to help them recover.
- Betty Buckley is labeled "Buck's loyal but frequently **exasperated** wife."  
A. evil      B. hard-working      **C. frustrated**      D. nervous
- R-r-r-r-r—r---r-----r The line stretched **taut**.  
A. slack, loose      **B. straight, tight**      C. way too tight, ready to break any second
- [Buck] peeled off his uniform in **picoseconds** and rushed to the showers.  
A. tenths of a second      B. thousandths of a second      **C. trillionths of a second**
- He was so **pumped with adrenaline**, he tore the knobs right off the wall.  
A. feeling sick      B. happy      **C. ready for action**
- [Buck] had given himself a **groin** pull and couldn't even end down very low. Where is the **groin**?  
A. in the lower back      **B. where the legs meet the trunk of the body**      C. lower stomach
- "Amy, call the hospital. Call the hospital," Betty **implored** as she tried to cradle [Buck's] head.  
A. shouted      **B. begged**      C. whispered
- [After the door incident, Buck] wanted to argue, but he was distracted by his head, which was throbbing and growing a large purple **welt** the size the half a baseball front and center.  
A. a scratch      B. a bruise      **C. a bump**      D. tumor
- Betty's concern for her damaged and increasingly **deranged** husband showed in the worried tone of her voice.      A. nervous      **B. crazed**      C. intelligent      D. good-looking
- "Y-A-a-A-a-a-A-H-h-H!! Buck **caterwauled**, jumping up and down like a young colt...  
A. sang      **B. screeched like a cat**      C. waved his arms      D. did somersaults
- The coil of rope by the side of the well **unfurled** at breakneck speed.  
A. spread out      B. fell apart      C. grew larger      **D. unrolled**
- The pickup truck with the two men **careened** down the dark highway.  
A. cruised steadily      B. chugged along      **C. rushed headlong**      D. slid
- A small fire started beneath the **fuselage**.  
A. the tail      B. the wings      C. the wheels      **D. the central body of the plane**