

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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Directions: Choose the answer that provides the best definition for the bold-faced word.

- 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 D.
- [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