

Understanding Multiple-Meaning Words

Teaching Pages, Practice Activities & Answer Keys

UK & US Editions Included

PRACTICE 2

Match Words

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

1. bat •
2. bank •
3. bark •
4. light •
5. watch •
6. wave •
7. spring •
8. jam •
9. park •
10. seal •

CHECK
After you match, use each word in a sentence.

LEARN

What Is a Multiple-Meaning Word?

A multiple-meaning word is one word that has more than one meaning. We use context to figure out which meaning is correct.

bat - animal / sports bat

bank - money place / river edge

bark - dog sound / tree covering

light - brightness / not heavy

watch - look / timepiece

wave - water movement / hand gesture

LEARN Clear teaching	PRACTISE Guided activities	CHECK Answer key included
WORD MEANING Compare different meanings of the same word.	READING Use context to work out word meaning.	WRITING Choose words and meanings that fit.

Teaching Pages • 11 Practice Activities • Review • Multiple-Meaning Word Challenge • Answer Key

KOJI PATH

Multiple-Meaning Words

Multiple-Meaning Words Matter?

One word can communicate different ideas.

TE
Words clearly communicate different ideas.

SPEAK
Notice that one word can be used in different ways.

bank: money place / river edge
YES NO

pencil: writing tool / weather
YES NO

animal

covering

being used.

in sentence to sentence.

dge

SS

sentence first.

21 pages

A step-by-step vocabulary resource

What's Included

See all 21 pages included in this resource

- Teaching Pages
- 11 Practice Activities
- Mixed Review
- Multiple-Meaning Word Challenge
- Quick Reference
- Answer Keys
- UK & US English Editions Included

LEARN

What Is a Multiple-Meaning Word?

A multiple-meaning word is one word that has more than one meaning. The meaning changes with context.

DEFINITION

A multiple-meaning word is one word that has more than one meaning. The meaning changes with context.

bat - animal / sports bat

SAME WORD, DIFFERENT MEANINGS

bank - money place / river edge

bark - dog sound / tree covering

light - brightness / not heavy

watch - look / timepiece

wave - water movement / hand gesture

ring - jewellery / bell sound

REMEMBER

Look at the whole sentence. The same word can mean different things in different contexts.

KOJI PATHI

Multiple-Meaning Words

PRACTICE 8

Sort the Meanings

Write each meaning under the multiple-meaning word it matches.

MEANING BANK

sports equipment • river edge • dog sound • brightness • timepiece • season
flying animal • money place • tree covering • not heavy • look carefully • coil

BAT	BANK
BARK	LIGHT
WATCH	SPRING

USE ONE WORD

Choose one word from above and write two sentences that show its two different meanings.

TIP

Each word has two meanings in the bank. Read every meaning before you decide where it belongs.

PRACTICE 9

Meaning Detective Paragraph

Use context to identify the meaning of each bold multiple-meaning word.

MEANING BANK

river edge • tree covering • timepiece • brightness • season

READ

In spring, Sam sat on the **bank** beside a tree. He noticed the rough **bark**, checked his **watch**, and noticed the **light** fading as the sky grew dark.

IDENTIFY THE MEANINGS

Meaning of spring:

Meaning of bark:

Meaning of watch:

Meaning of light:

EXPLAIN ONE CLUE: What words helped you decide?

PRACTICE 10

Rewrite with Another Meaning

Use the same bold word in a new sentence that shows a different meaning.

1. The **bat** flew out of the cave.

2. We sat on the **bank** beside the river.

3. The dog began to **bark**.

4. The room was full of **light**.

5. I **watch** the birds.

6. A huge **wave** reached the shore.

PRACTICE 11

Write the Other Meaning

Write another meaning for each word. More than one sensible answer may be possible.

1. bat	2. bank
3. bark	4. light
5. watch	6. wave
7. spring	8. jam
9. park	10. seal

CHALLENGE

Choose two words above. Write two sentences for each word - one sentence for each meaning - on the back of this page or in a notebook.

CHECK

Read your sentences. Does the same word show a different meaning in each sentence?

Learn First

What Is a Multiple-Meaning Word?

LEARN

What Is a Multiple-Meaning Word?

A multiple-meaning word is one word that has more than one meaning. The meaning changes with context.

DEFINITION

A multiple-meaning word is one word that has more than one meaning. The meaning changes with context.

bat - animal / sports bat

SAME WORD, DIFFERENT MEANINGS

bank - money place / river edge	bark - dog sound / tree covering
light - brightness / not heavy	watch - look / timepiece
wave - water movement / hand gesture	ring - jewellery / bell sound

REMEMBER

Look at the whole sentence. The same word can mean different things in different contexts.

KOJI PATH Multiple-Meaning Words

Why Do Multiple-Meaning Words Matter?

LEARN

Why Do Multiple-Meaning Words Matter?

Multiple-meaning words help us understand how one word can communicate different ideas.

READ
Use sentence clues to work out which meaning is intended.

WRITE
Choose and use words clearly so the reader understands your meaning.

SPEAK
Notice that one word can be used in different ways.

TRY IT
Can the word have both meanings? Circle YES or NO.

bat: animal / sports equipment YES NO	bank: money place / river edge YES NO
apple: fruit / vehicle YES NO	pencil: writing tool / weather YES NO

USE IT IN A SENTENCE

1. The bat flew out of the cave.
sports equipment river edge animal

2. Dad went to the bank to deposit money.
river edge money place tree covering

REMEMBER
The sentence gives clues that tell you which meaning of the word is being used.

KOJI PATH Multiple-Meaning Words

Context Shows the Meaning

LEARN

Context Shows the Meaning

The surrounding words tell you which meaning is intended.

CONTEXT IS THE CLUE
A multiple-meaning word stays the same, but its meaning can change from sentence to sentence.

COMPARE THE SENTENCES

The bat flew through the night sky.
bat = a flying animal
The word bat names an animal here.

He swung the bat and hit the ball.
bat = sports equipment used to hit a ball
The same word has a different meaning here.

We sat on the bank beside the river.
bank = the land beside a river
The surrounding words reveal the meaning.

CHOOSE THE WORD THAT FITS BEST

1. The tree's bark felt rough.
dog sound tree covering river edge

2. The room was full of light.
not heavy timepiece brightness

REMEMBER
Do not choose a meaning just because you know the word. Read the whole sentence first.

KOJI PATH Multiple-Meaning Words

Clear teaching pages explain how one word can have different meanings and how context helps children understand which meaning is being used.

Practise & Apply

PRACTICE 2

Match Words to Meanings

Draw a line from each word on the left to one of its meanings on the right.

1. bat •	• A. timepiece
2. bank •	• B. tree covering
3. bark •	• C. leave a vehicle
4. light •	• D. sports equipment
5. watch •	• E. close tiger
6. wave •	• F. river edge

PRACTICE 8

Sort the Meanings

Write each meaning under the multiple-meaning word it matches.

MEANING BANK

sports equipment • river edge • dog sound • brightness • timepiece • season
flying animal • money place • tree covering • not heavy • look carefully • coil

BAT

PRACTICE 4

Which Meaning Fits Best?

Circle the meaning of the bold word in each sentence.

1. The bat flew out of the cave. sports equipment river edge
2. Dad went to the bank to get money. river edge money place
3. The dog began to bark . dog sound tree covering
4. This bag is very light . brightness timepiece
5. I watch the birds from my window. timepiece look carefully
6. A huge wave reached the shore. move your hand water movement
7. Spring is my favourite season. season traffic blockage
8. We spread strawberry jam on toast. traffic blockage group

PRACTICE 3

Choose the Meaning

Use each meaning from the bank once. Write the meaning of the bold word in each sentence.

MEANING BANK

tree covering • timepiece • river edge • not heavy • traffic blockage • sports equipment

1. He hit the ball with a bat .
2. We sat on the bank beside the river.
3. The parcel is light enough to carry.
4. I checked my watch for the time.
5. The tree's bark was rough.

her Meaning

the bold word with a different meaning.

the ball.

the river.

Multiple-Meaning Words

ones where the word can match both meanings.

sports equipment	2. apple: fruit / weather
river edge	4. pencil: writing tool / animal
tree covering	6. chair: seat / fruit
not heavy	8. watch: look / timepiece
hand gesture	10. spoon: utensil / season
coil	12. jam: fruit spread / traffic jam

CHALLENGE - CHOOSE THE MEANING

moment	river edge	animal
money place	dog sound	
season	brightness	
hand gesture	jewellery	

Recognise • Match • Choose • Explain • Write