

Multiple-Meaning Words

L.2.4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 2 reading and content, choosing flexibly from an array of strategies.

e. Use glossaries and beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the meaning of words and phrases **in all content areas**. CA



UNDERSTAND THE STANDARDS

Sometimes two words are spelled alike but have different meanings. Such words are called **multiple-meaning words**. You will often see them in your reading.

Words to Know

multiple-meaning word

- To find which meaning the writer uses, look at how the word is used in the sentence. Other words in the sentence can help you figure out what the word means.

For example, squash can be

- a verb (action word) meaning “crush” or “smash”
- a noun (name word) meaning a type of vegetable like pumpkin or zucchini
- a noun meaning a type of ball game

**GUIDED INSTRUCTION**

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in the margin.

Shh!

Lynn the Lion missed his home in Africa. He had new quarters here in the zoo. The zoo was not as good as home. It made Lynn feel sick.

“My situation is grave,” Lynn said. “I have got to get out of here before I crack.”

He made a break for it.

“Shh,” Lynn told himself. He set one paw silently in front of the other. The zookeeper soon would be hot on his trail.

“Don’t step on a crack, or you’ll break your mother’s back!” Lynn warned himself. Lynn loved his mother. At 20, she was old for a lion, but she stayed in shape by chasing after food.

**Guided Questions**

Where is Lynn’s new home?

Why did Lynn have to leave?

Read the sentences. Then answer the questions.

- 1. Lynn sorely missed his home in Africa. He had new quarters here in the zoo.**

One meaning of quarters is “coins worth 25 cents.” Circle the word that tells what quarters means in the sentence.

- 2. The zookeeper soon would be hot on his trail.**

In which sentence below does hot have the same meaning?

- A** Skipping school is not a hot idea.
 - B** “You’re getting warm. You’re hot!” Tim said, in a game of hide-and-seek.
 - C** Mom’s chili is so hot it makes my eyes water.
 - D** The desert has hot days and cool nights.
- 3. “My situation is grave,” Lynn said. “I have to get out of here.”**

In which sentence below does grave have a different meaning?

- A** Feeling very sad, we dug a grave for our gerbil.
- B** “Say you’re sorry,” Dad said in a grave voice.
- C** Bullying is a grave matter in many schools.
- D** A grave punishment awaited the bank robber—if the sheriff caught him.

4. "I have got to get out of here," Lynn said. He made a break for it.

What words help you figure out what break means? Circle them.



ON YOUR OWN

Read the sentences below. Complete the activities.

1. Margaret helped Dad shell peas for dinner. They put the peas in a bowl.

Shell can mean "the hard outer covering of an animal."

What does shell mean in this sentence?

Circle the word that helps you figure out what shell means.



2. The frog caught a big juicy fly.

Fly can mean “to travel through the air.” What does fly mean in this sentence?

Circle the words that help you figure out what fly means.

3. José has a favorite cereal bowl. He also uses it for soup.

Bowl can mean “play a game with balls and pins.” What does bowl mean in this sentence?

Circle the words that help you figure out what bowl means.



- 4.** Crack, trail, and shape are multiple-meaning words. On a separate piece of paper, write two sentences for each word. Show the words’ different meanings. Use a dictionary to help you with the definitions.