

Multiple-Meaning Words

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Some words carry MORE than one meaning. The same letters can name very different things (*bat* = baseball stick OR flying mammal). Read the whole sentence and let the surrounding words tell you which meaning fits.

PRACTICE

Choose the meaning that matches how the word is used in each sentence. Every option below is a real dictionary meaning of the word — only one fits the context.

- The dog's loud **bark** woke the baby.*
 - the outer covering of a tree
 - the sharp call a dog makes
 - a small sailing ship
 - to shout commands sharply
- We peeled the rough **bark** off the fallen log.*
 - the outer covering of a tree
 - the sharp call a dog makes
 - to shout orders in a sharp voice
 - a small two-masted sailing ship
- The **bat** swooped through the cave at night.*
 - a wooden stick used to hit a ball
 - a quick blink or flutter of the eyelid
 - a flying mammal that comes out at night
 - to strike at something with a swinging motion
- Mia swung the **bat** and hit a home run.*
 - a wooden stick used to hit a ball
 - a flying mammal of the night
 - to strike at something with a swinging motion
 - a quick blink of the eyelid



5. *The phone began to **ring** during dinner.*
 - A. a circle of metal worn on a finger
 - B. to make a clear bell-like sound
 - C. a roped square where boxers fight
 - D. a group of people standing in a circle
6. *Please turn the **light** on; it's getting dark.*
 - A. not heavy in weight
 - B. pale in color
 - C. easy or simple
 - D. a lamp, bulb, or source of brightness
7. *This backpack is **light**, so I can carry it all day.*
 - A. not heavy in weight
 - B. a lamp or source of brightness
 - C. easy or simple to do
 - D. pale in color
8. *I always **watch** my little brother after school.*
 - A. a small timepiece worn on the wrist
 - B. to stare at something closely without moving
 - C. a period when guards stay alert (a night watch)
 - D. to look after or keep an eye on someone
9. *Grandma gave me a **present** on my birthday.*
 - A. existing here now (an adjective meaning *in attendance*)
 - B. to introduce someone or something formally
 - C. a gift given to someone
 - D. the current time, as in *for the present*
10. *The fish covered in shiny **scales** swam past.*
 - A. tools used to measure weight
 - B. a series of musical notes from low to high
 - C. to climb up something steep
 - D. small flat plates that cover the skin of a fish



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 1. B | All four are real meanings of <i>bark</i> . Context: the dog made the sound — meaning B. A is the tree meaning (used as a noun for tree-skin); C is a kind of small boat; D is bark used as a verb meaning to shout orders. |
| 2. A | Context: peeled off a log = the tree's outer covering, meaning A. B is the dog-sound; C is the verb meaning shout; D is the sailing-ship meaning. |
| 3. C | All four are real meanings of <i>bat</i> . Context: <i>swooped + cave + night</i> points to the animal — meaning C. A is the baseball stick; B is <i>bat</i> as in <i>bat an eyelid</i> ; D is the verb meaning to swat. |
| 4. A | Context: <i>swung + home run</i> = baseball, meaning A. B is the animal; C is the verb form; D is the eyelid meaning. |
| 5. B | All four are real meanings of <i>ring</i> . Phones make a sound — meaning B. A is jewelry; C is the boxing area; D is a circular gathering of people. |
| 6. D | All four are real meanings of <i>light</i> . <i>Turn on + dark</i> = a lamp, meaning D. A describes weight; B describes color; C describes difficulty. |
| 7. A | Context: <i>carry it all day</i> = weight, meaning A. B is a lamp; C is difficulty; D is color. |
| 8. D | All four are real meanings of <i>watch</i> . Context: caring for a sibling = meaning D. A is the noun for a wristwatch; B is staring (close to but more limited than D); C is a guard period. |
| 9. C | All four are real meanings of <i>present</i> . Birthday = a gift, meaning C. A is the adjective (<i>students present in class</i>); B is the verb (<i>to present a report</i>); D is the noun meaning <i>now</i> . |
| 10. D | All four are real meanings of <i>scales</i> . On a fish = meaning D. A is the weighing tool (<i>bathroom scales</i>); B is the music meaning (<i>practice your scales</i>); C is the verb (<i>scaled the cliff</i>). |



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