

# 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.

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

<b>1. B</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.
<b>2. A</b>	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.
<b>3. C</b>	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.
<b>4. A</b>	Context: <i>swung + home run</i> = baseball, meaning A. B is the animal; C is the verb form; D is the eyelid meaning.
<b>5. B</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.
<b>6. D</b>	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.
<b>7. A</b>	Context: <i>carry it all day</i> = weight, meaning A. B is a lamp; C is difficulty; D is color.
<b>8. D</b>	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.
<b>9. C</b>	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> .
<b>10. D</b>	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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