

Multiple-Meaning Words

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Many English words have more than one meaning. The trick is to read carefully and let the rest of the sentence point to the right meaning. All four answer choices are real meanings of the same word — only one fits the way the word is used in the sentence.

PRACTICE

For each sentence, choose the meaning of the **BOLD** word as it is used in *THAT* sentence. Every option is a real dictionary meaning of the word.

1. Marisol gave a short **bow** at the end of her violin recital.
 - A. a knot with loops in a ribbon
 - B. the front part of a ship
 - C. a long, thin stick used to play a stringed instrument
 - D. a bend forward of the body to show respect
2. Please **park** the car closer to the curb.
 - A. a public area with grass and trees
 - B. to position a vehicle and leave it
 - C. an amusement area with rides
 - D. a piece of open countryside
3. The recipe calls for two **squares** of baking chocolate.
 - A. small, four-sided blocks of a substance
 - B. shapes with four equal sides and four right angles
 - C. open public spaces in the center of a town
 - D. honest, fair people
4. The runner kept a steady **pace** through the entire race.
 - A. a single step in walking
 - B. to move back and forth nervously
 - C. the speed at which someone moves
 - D. a measurement of about three feet



5. *The new policy will affect every **branch** of the company.*
 - A. the woody arm of a tree
 - B. a stream that flows into a larger river
 - C. a part of a family tree
 - D. a local office or section of a larger organization
6. *I'll **match** the socks before I put them in the drawer.*
 - A. a small stick used to start a fire
 - B. to find pairs that go together
 - C. a contest or game between two sides
 - D. an equal in skill or strength
7. *The teacher used a **ruler** to draw a straight line on the board.*
 - A. a person who governs a country
 - B. an unwritten guide for behavior
 - C. a strip with marks for measuring or drawing straight lines
 - D. a powerful judge in court
8. *Sound waves can **refract** when they pass from air into water.*
 - A. to bend as it passes from one medium to another
 - B. to take back something that was said
 - C. to break into many pieces
 - D. to make a loud noise
9. *The actor delivered every **line** of his speech with feeling.*
 - A. a long thin mark made on a surface
 - B. a row of people waiting their turn
 - C. a piece of rope or wire stretched between two points
 - D. a single sentence or phrase a character speaks in a play
10. *The chef seasoned the soup with a **pinch** of salt.*
 - A. a very small amount, as much as you can hold between two fingers
 - B. to squeeze tightly between the thumb and finger
 - C. a difficult or tight situation
 - D. to steal something quickly



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. D	After a recital, performers <i>bend forward</i> to thank the audience. A is the ribbon meaning; B is the ship part; C is the violin <i>bow</i> she would use DURING the music, not after.
2. B	The sentence asks someone to do something with a car — position it and leave it . A, C, and D are all real meanings of <i>park</i> as a noun, but the sentence uses <i>park</i> as a verb.
3. A	Chocolate comes in small four-sided blocks , often scored to break apart. B is the geometric shape (a 2-D figure can't be measured into a recipe); C and D are unrelated meanings of <i>square</i> .
4. C	<i>Steady pace through the race</i> means the speed of moving . A is one step; B is the verb <i>to pace</i> nervously; D is an old unit of measurement.
5. D	A company's branch is a local office or section . A is the tree meaning; B is the river meaning; C is the family-history meaning. The phrase <i>every branch of the company</i> points to organization parts.
6. B	Sorting socks means finding pairs that go together . A is a fire-starting stick; C is a game; D is the <i>he met his match</i> sense.
7. C	Used to <i>draw a straight line</i> = the measuring/drawing strip. A and D are the leader meanings; B confuses <i>ruler</i> with <i>rule</i> .
8. A	In science, sound or light bends as it passes from one medium to another . B is <i>retract</i> (different word); C is <i>fracture</i> ; D is unrelated.
9. D	An actor's line in a play is a single phrase or sentence the character speaks . A is the drawn mark; B is a queue; C is rope (a fishing line, a clothes line).
10. A	When a recipe says a pinch of salt , it means a very small amount . B is the verb meaning of <i>pinch</i> ; C is <i>in a pinch</i> ; D is slang for stealing.



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