

Vocabulary
Bell Ringers
and
Warm-ups

Three free activities for 6th-8th graders
by Margaret Whisnant



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A Bedazzling Seek-a-Word

The letter "z" always comes in last in the English alphabet, but that doesn't prevent it from being a very hard worker. Sometimes it doubles its efforts by appearing twice, side-by-side, in a word's spelling. You can view 22 examples in the box to the right. You can also find them in the seek-a-word puzzle. This one will be quite a challenge. Start circling and try not to work yourself into a tizzy!



B Z U N L B P I Z Z A M
 E A Z Y Z Z U F K Y O P
 D G Z I P I Z Z A Z Z R
 A N E L F P Y Z Z I R F
 Z I L M E G L A Z A G D
 Z L Z D B E R Z N N R J
 L Z Z E F E A I I S B D
 E Z U N L R Z L Z U S F
 J I M L A E Z Z Z Z D E
 A R A P L Z F Z L Z L F
 Z D A Z U N E D J E U Y
 Z P Z G D R A Z Z I L B
 T I Z Z Y I Z Z U C A J
 S M U Z Z L E L Z Z U N

- bedazzle
- blizzard
- buzz
- buzzard
- buzzer
- drizzle
- embezzle
- fizz
- frizzy
- fuzzy
- grizzly
- guzzling
- Jacuzzi
- jazz
- mozzarella
- muzzle
- nuzzle
- paparazzi
- pizza
- pizzazz
- sizzle
- tizzy

Homophone Sidekicks

Use the clues to identify the following sets of homophone sidekicks. Some are real challenges, so put on your best-fitting thinking cap! Every word and its sound-alike companion must be spelled correctly and written in the correct blank.



1. connected rooms used together _____
 _____ opposite of sour
2. from one side to another _____
 _____ past tense of *throw*
3. belly button _____
 _____ pertaining to ships; nautical
4. offering products at a reduced price _____
 _____ unfurled fabric that catches the wind
5. stop momentarily _____
 _____ animal feet with claws
6. Owie!!! _____
 _____ the glass part of a window
7. the ability to calmly endure delay _____
 _____ those receiving medical care
8. a large estate with a mansion _____
 _____ the way something is done
9. a rule of conduct _____
 _____ the leader of a school
10. a passageway between classrooms _____
 _____ to transport goods
11. you wear these, especially the blue ones _____
 _____ inherited body patterns
12. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. _____
 _____ to stun with a blow or shock



Compound Connections

door	drop	bread	brain	water	time
	cast		off		short
wave	black	board	guard	key	screen

Ten of the words in the box above can be added to all four words in one group and change them into compound words. Sometimes the common word will be added at the beginning, and sometimes at the end. Five of the boxed words can form a few compounds, but they cannot connect to a **whole** group, which makes them total duds!

Write the correct connectors in the large blanks after the numbers.

1. _____
 ___bell
 ___knob
 ___way
 ___mat

2. _____
 body___
 coast___
 life___
 safe___

3. _____
 ___out
 tear___
 ___kick
 rain___

4. _____
 ___bread
 ___stop
 ___wave
 ___cut



5. _____
 brain___
 micro___
 shock___
 short___

6. _____
 blast___
 ___beat
 play___
 ___shore

7. _____
 ___basket
 ___stick
 ___box
 ___winner

8. _____
 day___
 life___
 bed___
 spring___

9. _____
 ___play
 sun___
 wide___
 ___shot

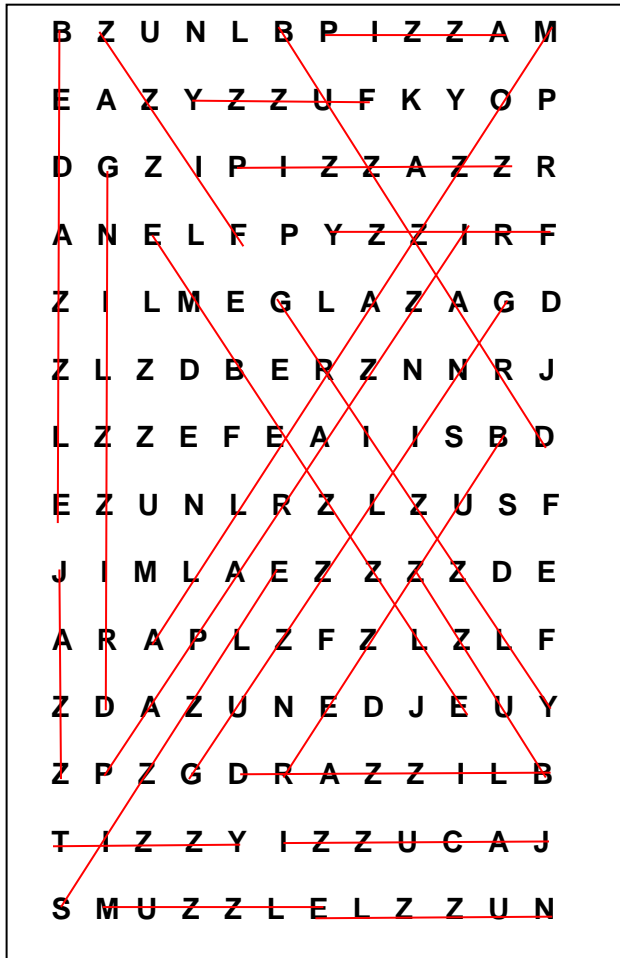
10. _____
 clip___
 ___room
 ___walk
 score___

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Answer Keys

Page 1 Bedazzling Seek-a-Word



Page 2 Homophone Sidekicks

1. suite
sweet
2. through
threw
3. navel
naval
4. sale
sail
5. pause
paws
6. pain
pane
7. patience
patients
8. manor
manner
9. principle
principal
10. hall
haul
11. jeans
genes
12. days
daze

Page 3 Compound Connections

1. door
2. guard
3. drop
4. short
5. wave
6. off
7. bread
8. time
9. screen
10. board

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