

Words with Multiple Meanings

Checking out the Animals



Wellford's horse managed to horse around for most of the race.

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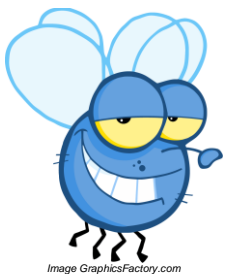
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What do these three sentences have in common?

A fly zoomed past my nose and came to a screeching halt on my sandwich.

Herman went outside to fly his new kite.

Grandmother is planning to fly into Dallas next Monday.



The word **fly**, of course. The thoughts expressed in the sentences are different, yet they use the same word and make perfect sense. That's because words like **fly** have more than one meaning. In the first sentence, it names an insect. In the second, it means "soar through the air." In the third, it means "to travel on an airplane."

The fly isn't the only animal with a multiple-meaning name. A dozen more are ready to show off their special talents! Study the *italicized definition* after each of the following animal names and then decide which of the three sentences it matches. Write its letter in the blank to the left.

- _____ 1. duck: *to stoop or bend*
A. Dad had to duck to get through the tree house door.
B. The duck floated quietly in the shade next to the river bank.
C. I accidentally split my pants and had to walk like a duck back to the car.
- _____ 2. hound: *a type of dog that is famous for being able to find things by using its sense of smell*
A. Don't hound your mother by arguing when she is driving.
B. The police hound quickly led officers to the lost child's hiding place.
C. My little brother always seems to hound me when my friends are around.
- _____ 3. bat: *a flying mammal*
A. One more player, and it's my turn at bat.
B. Let's bat a few ideas around before we decide what to do.
C. Just before sunset, a bat circled our yard and feasted on mosquitoes.
- _____ 4. monkey: *to tinker with*
A. Dad was singing and dancing around and making a monkey of himself.
B. Don't monkey with the TV remote!
C. A spider monkey does not have eight legs, but it does have really long legs.
- _____ 5. bear: *to support*
A. The garage roof was able to bear the weight of the heavy snowfall.
B. We need to bear left at the fork in the road to reach the campground.
C. I decided not to argue with the large bear that snatched the bag of cookies from our picnic table.
- _____ 6. crane: *a large wading bird with long legs, neck, and beak*
A. A large crane sat atop the skyscraper like a monster arm ready to snatch something from the sky.
B. The sandhill crane has large red patches on its head that look like huge eyes.
C. We had to crane our necks to follow the path the baseball took over the fence.

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Checking out the Animals--continued

- _____ 7. bug: *a microorganism that makes a person sick, especially a virus*
- A. Holding her shoe in the air, Mom pursued the large bug until it disappeared into a crack under the wall molding.
 - B. The whole class seems to have caught some sort of bug, and absences have been high this week.
 - C. Don't bug me when I'm texting, please!
- _____ 8. badger: *a burrowing animal with strong claws, a thick coat, and black and white stripes on its head*
- A. If I don't turn off my computer and put away my electronic games every night, Mom will badger me until I do.
 - B. Our cat likes to badger our dog by jumping across his back when he's napping.
 - C. The burrow that a badger digs is called a sett.
- _____ 9. wolf: *to eat by gulping down as if starving*
- A. Termites can wolf down a foot-long board in about six months.
 - B. I really enjoy being with my friends, but at other times I want to be a lone wolf for an hour or two.
 - C. A wolf pack works as a team to find food, protect themselves, and raise their young.
- _____ 10. parrot: *to repeat or imitate without thought or understanding*
- A. Uncle Ramie's pet parrot can say more than a dozen words, some of which he shouldn't!
 - B. A crow can learn to mimic human words but not as well as a parrot.
 - C. My little brother is starting to parrot everything he hears so I have to be careful.
- _____ 11. rat: *to tell on or give secret information*
- A. Every time I say I would like to have a pet rat, Mom's face turns purple.
 - B. If I am not nice to my brother for the rest of the week, he will rat on me about some stuff.
 - C. My sister is a mall rat from the time it opens on Saturday until Mom makes her come home.
- _____ 12. pig: *a young swine weighing less than 120 pounds (121 pounds = hog!)*
- A. When my family goes to a pizza parlor, I try not to pig out at the buffet.
 - B. The main characters of **Charlotte's Web** are a spider named Charlotte and a pig named Wilbur.
 - C. For my birthday, I want permission to pig it in my room for a week without picking things up, putting things away, and eating from a paper plate while lying in bed and watching TV. Okay?



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Answer Keys

CCSS Alignment: L 3.4, 4.4, 5.4

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. C
9. A
10. A
11. B
12. B

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[Words with Multiple Meanings: Five Activities](#)