

Words with Multiple Meanings

Checking out the Animals

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 the word **fly** has more than one meaning. In the first sentence, it names an insect. In the second, it means to "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.

Full file has 12 items with Answer keys