Many words have more than one meaning. A reader can often determine a word’s correct meaning by looking for context clues. Be a word detective!

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Look at the words below. They all have more than one meaning.
2. On a sheet of notebook paper, write at least 2 definitions of each word. Use the dictionary to help you.
3. Next, write a sentence for each word, showing the two different meanings. Be sure to give the reader context clues.
4. You should have a total of 8 sentences.
5. Read a story from this week and find at least 2 more words that have multiple meanings and add them to your list.

**EXAMPLE:**
Multiple meaning word: *lost*

Definitions: (1) no longer had (2) failed to win

Sentence 1: The baseball team lost the game.

Sentence 2: She lost her hat in the snowstorm.

**Things you need:**
- Paper
- Pencil
- Book

**MULTIPLE MEANING WORDS:**
1. stick 5.
2. lead 6.
3. saw
4. safe

Resource Bank 3-5
Multiple Meaning Words
Read the following story about skiing. Underline multiple-meaning words that you find (words that are spelled the same, but have different meanings).

**First Day on the Slopes**

On Ronnie’s first day at the ski resort, he started to trail behind the ski instructor. She told him to ski between a row of flags, but he insisted on going down a steep, unmarked trail.

The trail passed trees with low branches. Skiers had to be careful or they would bump into them. Ronnie forgot to duck. He had a big bump on his forehead. Ronnie wished he had followed the instructor’s lead. His legs felt stiff and as heavy as lead. He took off his skis and walked like a duck down the trail.

**Directions:**
1. Make a chart like the one below on your paper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS</th>
<th>MEANINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>trail</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lead</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bump</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>duck</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Using the clues from the story, write the 2 different meanings of the words in your chart.

3. Next, add the following words to your chart and write 2 meanings of each word:
   - wind
   - fine
   - rock
   - stick

**Things you need:**
- Paper
- Pencil
- Dictionary
DIRECTIONS:
1. Write down each of the multiple-meaning words listed below.

2. Write 2 sentences for word, each sentence using a different meaning for each word. Look up the definitions in the dictionary if you need too.

3. Draw a quick sketch to illustrate each sentence.

MULTIPLE-MEANING WORDS:
✓ wave
✓ dove
✓ pen
✓ ring

EXAMPLE:
Sentence 1
It was so hot outside that I turned on the fan.

Sentence 2
My brother is a huge fan of football.
Multiple-Meaning Words: A word can have more than one meaning even though it is spelled the same way. For example, a bank can be a place where you keep your money or it can be land along a river. The way the word is used in the sentence tells the reader which meaning is being referred to.

Each word on your list has more than one meaning based on the context in which it is used. Select two separate meanings for each word. Fold a sheet of paper “hot dog” style down the middle forming two sections. Using a different section for each meaning, write a sentence and drawn an illustration for each word. Be sure to include clues that help the reader understand how the word is being used in the sentence. Reread your sentences to edit them for errors in spelling and punctuation.

**BANK** – This week I collected my allowance and deposited the funds in my piggy bank to keep them safe.

**BANK** – With dreams of rainbow bass swimming in his head, the fisherman sat lazily on the bank of the river watching his line bob up and down.

Reflect on what you discovered about the part of speech of each word as the context changed. Generalize what you learned in your word work notebook.

**Things you need:**
- Word list
- Paper
- Pencil
Scaffolding for the Assignment: Model for the students how to look up a word in the dictionary to locate the word’s different meanings. Help the students choose two of the most common meanings of the word. Model how to write a sentence using the word in context for each meaning. Next, ask the students to complete the station for multiple meaning words using the words on List 1.

Advanced Assignment: Students will use List 3 to complete the assignment. Next, have students reflect on what they discovered about the part of speech of each word as the context changed. Ask students to generalize this learning in their word work notebook/journal. (Each word could be used as a noun or a verb, depending upon its use in context.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List 1</th>
<th>List 2</th>
<th>List 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>Bottle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bat</td>
<td>Light</td>
<td>Cooler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Pen</td>
<td>Glasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row</td>
<td>Bat</td>
<td>Tire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Row</td>
<td>Palm</td>
<td>Lie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Row</td>
<td>Trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A multiple-meaning word has **one spelling**. It has **more than one meaning**.

Example: bat

- I got a new baseball **bat** for my birthday.
- My birthday is on Halloween so we had a cake shaped like a **bat**.

Use the words below and write two meanings for each word and illustrate each. Next, use each word in a sentence.

- **bow**
- **lead**
- **bass**
- **wind**

**Things you need:**
- Paper
- Pencil