

Words with Multiple Meanings

There are many words in English that are spelled and sound the same but have different meanings. These are called words with multiple meanings. The ability to understand words with multiple meanings helps us understand better what we are reading. We can connect words to help us figure out what they mean in context.

Example:

Get a

- 1. I have to get the gas because I called for someone else to do it. (to get gas is required as preparation for an activity)
- 2. I had to get behind the big project. (to get behind is behind)

Directions:

Get a dictionary. You will see that many words have more than one meaning. Each word listed below has two meanings. Write the letter of the definition that fits the sentence.

- 1. The father will be **upset** if the child...
 - a. is part of the book
 - b. is behind the computer screen
- 2. When I had my hair **cut**...
 - a. to disconnect or sever
 - b. to place or position on one's finger
- 3. A tall tree was **trunked** last night...
 - a. something we use to hold a book
 - b. at least at present
- 4. When I heard the **chopped** wood...
 - a. is used for cutting
 - b. looked old, old-fashioned