

Name _____

Date _____

Heteronyms

Reading/discussion

We've looked at homophones, which are words which sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings, and at homographs, which are words which are spelt the same way and sound the same but have different meanings. Both of these categories start with 'homo' which means the same.

Today we are going to talk about a category of words called heteronyms. 'Hetero' is a Greek word which means different. So heteronyms are words which, although they are spelt the same way, are pronounced differently and have different meanings.

Here are some examples of heteronyms:

Address: We have just moved, here is my new address.

The president will address the crowd.

Close: The little friends held hands and sat close together.

Please close the door, there is a cold breeze.

Dove: The dove sat cooing in the tree.

I dove off the top board into the swimming pool.

In the first example address is used first as a noun and then as a verb with different pronunciations and different meanings. Can you identify the parts of speech the words close and dove fall into?

Good, in the second two sentences close is used as an adverb meaning nearby and as a verb, meaning shut. In the last example dove is used as a noun – a bird, and as a verb meaning jump headfirst.

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Activities:

A. Identify the heteronyms.

Here are five sentence pairs. Can you identify the heteronyms by drawing a smiling face next to the sentences in which they appear?



1. She saw an object lying on the ground
If they don't let me go I will object strongly.
2. It is one minute to midnight.
The diamond was so minute I could hardly see it.
3. He got all his sums right.
When you get to the intersection, turn right.
4. Her mother was an invalid and spent most of her time in bed.
You will need to be re-tested, your licence is invalid.
5. He rose up out of his chair to greet her.
She placed the perfect red rose in a vase on her desk.

B. Use heteronyms in sentences.

Now work out the different meanings of the following heteronyms and write two sentences with each, clearly showing the meaning of the words.




Bow; content; lead; live; desert.

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Answer Sheet

Activity A

1. She saw an object lying on the ground.
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Activity B

The following meanings must be clearly shown in the sentences:

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bow: | a. Tied from a ribbon. | b. Bend from the waist. |
| Content: | a. Happy or satisfied. | b. Subject matter. |
| Lead: | a. Guide or go ahead. | b. metal. |
| Live: | a. Stay or reside. | b. exist or have life. |
| Desert: | a. Abandon. | b. wilderness. |