

# Multiple Meaning Words Activities

## 1. "Word Wizard" Illustrations

**Concept:** Let students get creative by drawing the different meanings of a word.

**How to Play:**

1. Give each student a large piece of paper folded into quarters (or a pre-made worksheet with 4 boxes).
2. Assign one multiple-meaning word per box (e.g., bat, wave, trunk, light).
3. In each box, students must draw two different pictures that represent the word's meanings. They must also write a sentence for each meaning.

Example for "bat": Box 1: A baseball player swinging a bat. Box 2: A flying bat animal hanging in a cave.

## 2. Multiple Meaning Word Match-Up

**Concept:** A classic matching game that gets students moving and collaborating.

**How to Play:**

1. Create two sets of cards. One set has words (e.g., "orange"). The other set has definitions or pictures ("a color", "a fruit").
2. Hand out the cards to students. Say, "Go!" and students must walk around the room to find their matching partner.
3. Once they find their partner, they must come up with a correct sentence for each meaning of their word.

## 3. Act It Out! (Charades)

**Concept:** A hilarious way to get students to physically demonstrate the different meanings of a word.

**How to Play:**

1. Write several multiple-meaning words on slips of paper and put them in a hat.
2. Divide the class into two teams.
3. A player from one team picks a word and must act out both meanings without speaking. Their team has one minute to guess both meanings of the word.

Example Word: "watch". The student might first point to their wrist and pretend to check the time, then pretend to watch a thrilling tennis match.

#### 4. "That's Not What I Meant!" Sentence Pairs

**Concept:** This activity highlights the humor that can come from confusing word meanings.

**How to Play:**

1. Create a worksheet with two columns.
2. In the first column, write a sentence that uses one meaning of a word.
3. Students must write a silly sentence in the second column that uses a different meaning of the same word.

**Example:**

Column 1: The dog will bark at the mailman.

Column 2: The bark on the tree is rough.

Silly Combined Sentence: The dog will bark at the bark on the tree.

#### 5. Build-a-Word Craft

**Concept:** A hands-on craft that students can then use as a reference tool.

**How to Play:**

1. Give students a template shaped like a lightbulb, a star, or a simple flap-book.
2. On the outside, they write the multiple-meaning word (e.g., "nail").
3. They lift the flap or draw on the inside to show the two meanings. They can draw a fingernail and a hammer hitting a nail. They also write each sentence underneath the drawing.

#### 6. Multiple Meaning Word Bingo

**Concept:** A twist on the classic game that reinforces listening and comprehension skills.

**How to Play:**

1. Create Bingo cards with multiple-meaning words in the squares (e.g., "ring", "fly", "foot", "run").
2. Instead of just calling out the word, the caller reads a definition or a sentence with a blank.
3. Example:
  - Caller says: "I wear a \_\_\_\_\_ on my finger."
  - Students find and mark the word "ring" on their card.
  - Caller says: "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the telephone woke me up."
  - Students mark "ring" again.

### **Suggested Word List for 3rd Graders:**

bat (animal / sports equipment)

wave (ocean wave / to wave hello)

light (not dark / not heavy)

rock (a stone / to move back and forth)

train (choo-choo train / to practice)

trunk (elephant's nose / storage box / tree part)

foot (body part / measurement)

run (to move quickly / a tear in stockings / to operate)

match (to be the same / a game / a fire starter)

letter (mail / part of the alphabet)

park (a place to play / to stop a car)

tie (to bind / a necktie / a draw in a game)