

Learning together

What Do You Mean?

ACTIVITY #4

SEQUENCE: DEVELOPING VOCABULARY –
THE MEANING OF WORDS – GRADES 2 AND 3

By **Marie-Lou Laplante**,
Educational Specialist



Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to help your child understand that some words have a different meaning depending on the context.



Relevance of the activity

This activity allows the child to understand that some words, even if they are spelled the same, do not always mean the same thing from one sentence to another. When a child becomes aware of this, they develop their knowledge of words.



Supplies

 The list of words in appendix



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today, I would like to show you how certain words can have multiple meanings depending on the context.

Explain why:



This strategy will allow you to understand that a word can have different meanings depending on the context in which it is used. It will help you to better understand certain expressions, but also how to use the dictionary. For example, if you are looking for a synonym for the word **work**, you must first question the meaning of the word: Is it being used as a common noun such as when you do your **work** in school? Or is it being used as a conjugated verb, such as "He **works** at the bank"? When you ask yourself the right questions, you can make the right word choice.

Explain when:



You can use this strategy at any time when you're reading or writing.

Try it together:



Let's analyze a sentence in which we use a word that can have different meanings.

This ice is melting right before our eyes!

- What kind of ice are we talking about? Ice such as the ice in a skating rink? Or ice that we make in the freezer?

Without any context, it's hard to know what we're talking about. So, what could be done to clarify the meaning of these sentences?

1 We could complete the sentences to give more clues.

- For example: *The ice in the hockey arena is melting right before our eyes!* Now I understand that the word ice refers to a skating rink.

2 We would also use a more specific word.

- For example: *That ice skating rink is melting right before our eyes!* Now it's clear.

Let's try another one, but this time with the word *top*.

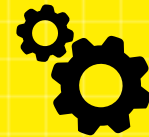
- We could say or write: *"I finally reached the mountain top!"* or *"She is at the top of her class."*

Thanks to the clues in the sentences, I am able to understand that the word top can designate the highest point of a mountain or someone who is the best at something.



Quick tips!

Have fun discovering the different meanings of certain words using our attached list! Your child will develop reflective skills, which will help them when encountering these words in a text.



List of words that have multiple meanings

bank	file	ring
clip	foot	rock
crane	jam	rose
cup	key	round
bark	light	scale
date	line	seal
fair	match	strike
face	model	tap
fast	pen	tire
fan	pitch	train
file	pound	trunk