

# Mini Lessons for Teaching Students Multiple Meaning Words

## Guess and Adjust

This strategy can help students learn to use context as a tool for defining unfamiliar vocabulary.

⇒ **Choose two or three words** from the text that have multiple meanings. Select words that can be clearly defined when read in context.

⇒ **Students 'Guess' the meaning** of each word.

Ask the students to define word with prompts such as:

- Does anyone think they know what this word means?
- Does this word remind you of any word you know?
- What do you think it might mean? Why?

⇒ **Review each word and the definitions** with which the students come up.

⇒ **Read the text.** This can be done as a shared, guided, or independent reading.

⇒ **'Adjust' the meaning** of each word using information from its context.

- Discuss the adjustments and why they were made.
- Ask: What information caused you to adjust?

## M and Ms: Locating multiple meaning words and illustrating them:

1. Students identify multiple meaning words when they are doing independent reading. Once they find one, they write a sentence using the word with the meaning they noticed in the text on an index card. They could even copy the sentence they located the word in from the text. They underline or highlight the word in the sentence and then illustrate the meaning above.
2. Next, they write another sentence using the word with a different meaning and highlight and illustrate that sentence as well. These are posted on a "grow list" of M and M words which is decorated with M and M candy wrappers. You may choose to give each



student who illustrates an M and M word an M and M candy as a prize as well.

# Multiple Meaning Words in Sentences:

Stand up if you used the word in the same way!

42 Read the sentence from “The Story of the Sun and the Moon.”

He pulled open the cover.

In which sentence does the word cover have the SAME meaning as it is used in the sentence above?

- A The cat took cover up in the tree from the dog.
- B The money raised will cover the cost of the class trip.
- C Place the cover back on the cookie jar.
- D Cover my back with sunscreen, please.

CSR11896.296

33 Read this sentence from the passage.

A thin pot made out of that clay would crack when it was fired.

In which sentence below is fired used with the same meaning as in the sentence above?

- A The teenager got fired from his job for being late.
- B The team was fired up after their big win.
- C The astronaut fired the engines at liftoff.
- D The chef fired the pizza in a hot oven.

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On the CST multiple meaning words are tested in grades 2-8. They are typically tested by showing one sentence from a passage in which a word is used with a specific meaning and then asking the students to either find a sentence in which the word is used with the **SAME** meaning or a **DIFFERENT** meaning. In other words, the students have to use the context of the sentence to determine the meaning of the word for that sentence.

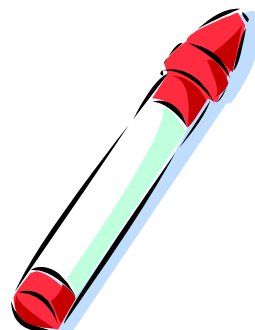
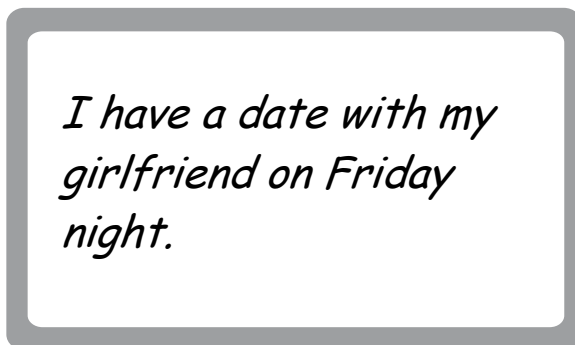
One way to build this skill is to have students create sentences on white boards and compare them with each other. Here’s a sample lesson:

## Step 1:

Display the multiple meaning word “date” on the white board.

Ask students to write a sentence using the word “date.”

If these are older students, most will choose the titillating meaning and write a sentence like this:



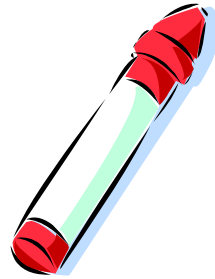
## Step 2:

Ask one student to stand up and read their sentence. Say "if you have used the word "date" with the meaning in \_\_\_\_\_'s sentence, stand up.

## Step 3:

Ask those students to sit down and then ask if anyone used the word "date" with a different meaning:

*The date for the next book fair is March 14.*



Ask students to stand if they used the word **date** to stand for a specific day.

Ask if there are other meanings for the word **date**.

*Dates are delicious and sweet.*

*The archeologist dated the artifact as around one thousand years old..*

## Step 4:

Continue this with several multiple meaning words over the course of a week or so of mini lessons. You can also have students look up the various meanings of these words in the dictionary and then have them make a class book of sentences to go with multiple meaning words of their choice.

## Common Words with Multiple Meanings

arms	fold	press
ball	game	rare
bank	grave	rest
bark	hide	second
bat	hold	sole
bit	jam	spell
blow	kind	stable
bridge	last	stick
case	like	story
compound	line	temple
count	long	tick
cue	mean	tire
date	mine	vault
fair	miss	wake
fan	net	well
file	pen	will
firm	present	yard

Word	Multiple Meanings
arms	He placed the child in her mother's <i>arms</i> . The rebels needed to buy <i>arms</i> to fight the war.
ball	The <i>ball</i> rolled under the table. The women wore their prettiest dresses to the <i>ball</i> .
bank	You can cash your check at the <i>bank</i> . We had a picnic on the <i>bank</i> of the river.
bark	Did you hear the dog <i>bark</i> ? The <i>bark</i> on the old tree is dry and brittle.
bat	The <i>bat</i> flew from the barn and frightened me. The children played baseball with a <i>bat</i> and ball.
bit	Jenn had a <i>bit</i> of jam on her shirt. I <i>bit</i> into an apple.
blow	The wind began to <i>blow</i> , and the leaves fell. The <i>blow</i> to his head knocked out the prize fighter.
bridge	We crossed the <i>bridge</i> that went over the river. <i>Bridge</i> is a card game for four people to play. We want to <i>bridge</i> the gap in scores.
case	She put her eyeglasses in their <i>case</i> . The lawyer won her first <i>case</i> . In this <i>case</i> , Carrie was right.
compound	The soldiers surrounded the enemy <i>compound</i> . A <i>compound</i> sentence is made of two clauses.
count	The duke, the <i>count</i> , and the earl received awards. The child is learning to <i>count</i> from one to ten. You can <i>count</i> on Joaquin, he's always early.
cue	The actor missed his <i>cue</i> and did not say his line. He held the billiard <i>cue</i> steady and aimed at the eight ball.
date	Bill asked Regina out on a <i>date</i> . Today's <i>date</i> is July 4, 2010. The <i>date</i> was sweet.
fair	The weather was <i>fair</i> on the day of the race. The judge's decision was <i>fair</i> . We went on rides at the <i>fair</i> .

Word	Multiple Meanings
fan	David is a baseball <i>fan</i> ; he never misses a game. It's very warm; please turn on the <i>fan</i> .
file	Put your papers in the <i>file</i> . <i>File</i> these papers in alphabetical order. The children walked in single <i>file</i> . Carrie had to <i>file</i> her torn fingernail with a nail <i>file</i> .
firm	When he finished college he joined a law <i>firm</i> . Apples should be <i>firm</i> , not soft, to taste good.
fold	<i>Fold</i> your paper in half. The girl took care of the sheep in the <i>fold</i> .
game	It sounded exciting, so I was <i>game</i> to try it. Poker is his favorite card <i>game</i> . In the forest there is wild <i>game</i> .
hide	The belts were made from the <i>hide</i> of a cow. I usually <i>hide</i> the gifts for the children's birthdays.
grave	The funeral was a <i>grave</i> occasion. The coffin was lowered into the <i>grave</i> .
hold	The sailors put their supplies into the ship's <i>hold</i> . <i>Hold</i> the string on the balloon or it will float away. Our vacation is on <i>hold</i> until my bonus comes through.
jam	I tried to <i>jam</i> one more coat into the closet. We put strawberry <i>jam</i> on our toast. We were stuck in a traffic <i>jam</i> for an hour. Jerry was in a <i>jam</i> when he lost his sister's ring.
kind	What <i>kind</i> of ice cream do you like? She was always <i>kind</i> and gentle.
last	I hope this ice cream will <i>last</i> until we get home. The <i>last</i> time I saw her she was very thin. Craig came in <i>last</i> at the track meet.
like	A briefcase is <i>like</i> a book bag. I <i>like</i> fudge cookies.
line	We stood in <i>line</i> to get our tickets. Write your name on the <i>line</i> . He drew the <i>line</i> at jumping in the water.

Word	Multiple Meanings
	Don't give me a <i>line</i> , just tell me the truth.
long	I <i>long</i> to go to a quiet beach. How <i>long</i> is the story?
mean	What did you <i>mean</i> when you said that? He was <i>mean</i> to his pet. We calculated the <i>mean</i> score for the two teams.
mine	The silver ore is brought out of the <i>mine</i> in carts. Put your chair next to <i>mine</i> . I am going to <i>mine</i> for gold.
miss	<i>Miss</i> Polk is the new chemistry teacher. I will <i>miss</i> you when you move to the city. The fly ball was a near <i>miss</i> .
net	The fish were caught in a <i>net</i> . After taxes, our <i>net</i> pay was \$300. I am going to search the <i>Net</i> for the answer.
pen	Pigs live in a <i>pen</i> . Sign your name with a <i>pen</i> .
present	He was not <i>present</i> at the awards ceremony. Jill received a <i>present</i> from Kaneesha on her birthday. The <i>present</i> time is colder than the past.
press	The members of the <i>press</i> asked the president questions. He asked his mom to <i>press</i> his shirt. <i>Press</i> the delete key to remove the word.
rare	I like my steak <i>rare</i> , not well done. Only three people own this <i>rare</i> coin.
rest	Anna will do the <i>rest</i> of the shopping. After the long walk up the hill, I wanted to <i>rest</i> .
second	There are 60 <i>seconds</i> in a minute. I was <i>second</i> in line today, tomorrow I'll be first.
sole	I ordered filet of <i>sole</i> for lunch. He was the <i>sole</i> survivor of the crash. There was a hole in the <i>sole</i> of his shoe.
spell	The child learned to <i>spell</i> his name. The witch put a magic <i>spell</i> on the tree.



<b>Word</b>	<b>Multiple Meanings</b>
stable	The boy put the horse in the <i>stable</i> . He may leave the hospital when his breathing is <i>stable</i> .
stick	The stamp would not <i>stick</i> to the envelope. He got a <i>stick</i> to stir the fire.
story	This is a five <i>story</i> building. She told a bedtime <i>story</i> .
temple	He took an aspirin for the pain in his <i>temple</i> . The men walked to the <i>temple</i> to pray.
tick	<i>Ticks</i> are insects that bite you. Can you hear the <i>tick</i> of the clock?
tire	I never <i>tire</i> of listening to my favorite music. I had a flat <i>tire</i> on my new car.
vault	The athlete had to <i>vault</i> over the six-foot barrier. All the money was stored in the <i>vault</i> at the bank.
wake	Be quiet or you'll <i>wake</i> the baby. The waves in the <i>wake</i> of the speedboat were very high.
well	I feel <i>well</i> today. He liked the movie <i>well</i> enough. He put a bucket in the <i>well</i> to get water.
will	The old man wrote a <i>will</i> before he died. I <i>will</i> see my friend tomorrow, not today. He had the <i>will</i> to win.
yard	A <i>yard</i> is equal to thirty-six inches. We had a picnic in the <i>yard</i> .