



Vocabulary Development

Later Elementary Standard 1.4 – Employ multiple strategies to recognize words as they construct meaning, including the use of context clues for multiple-meaning words.

Intermediate Language Arts (grades 3 - 5)

Multiple-Meaning Words

Words sometimes have more than one meaning so, when reading or writing, the sentence, the story line, and the pictures give us a context – a place where the word logically fits.

Sometimes the word is a noun, sometimes a verb or, at times, an adjective or adverb. When it's used as an adjective or adverb, suffixes are added.

Vocabulary Words with more than one meaning

leaves
Swamp
bluff

band
associate
bolt

address
catalog

glasses
divide

place

Here are some easy words with more than one meaning:

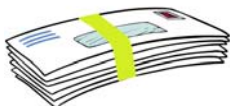
leaves **noun**, parts of a plant (The **leaves** are green in spring.)



verb, to go away, to depart
(She **leaves** in a rush every day.)



band **noun**, a group of people united for a purpose
(The marching **band** played my favorite song.)



verb, to tie together (She **banded** the envelopes in groups of 20.)

address **noun**, a direction or house number which shows where a place is (My **address** is 416 Main St.)

Our company's progress to date is steadily improving.



verb – to talk to a group or large crowd (The president of the company has to **address** the stockholders.)

glasses **noun**, an object you can wear in front of your eyes to see better (My **glasses** broke so I can't see well now.)



noun, containers (made from ground-up sand) that hold liquid (We need six **glasses** of juice for our guests.)

place **noun**, a location that exists (I always sit in the same **place** at the dinner table.)



verb, to put something somewhere (Where did you **place** my CDs?)

swamp **noun**, a geographical area full of murky water and vegetation (Florida has a famous **swamp** called the Everglades.)

verb, to overwhelm or flood (I am **swamped** with so much work.)

Now, here are difficult ones. Remember to use your knowledge of prefixes and suffixes.

associate **noun**, someone you work with (My **associate** gave me a great idea at the meeting.)



verb, to join with others in a group or club (My mother won't let me **associate** with smokers.)



catalog



noun, a book or pamphlet that lists and describes things (I look forward to receiving my **CD catalogs**, even though I don't buy many **CDs**.)

verb, to put things in proper order and classification (I **catalog** my stamp collection according to countries.)



divide



noun, a huge canyon or separation in the land formation (The Grand Canyon is one of the largest geological **divides** on our planet.)

verb, to separate into two or more parts (Do we have enough pieces of candy to **divide** among the whole class?)

bluff



noun, a craggy hill in a land formation (The billy goat stood on the **bluff** overlooking the ocean.)



verb, to outsmart someone (His bet to win with a poor hand was a **bluff** that didn't work.)

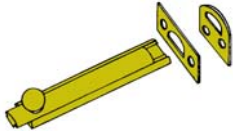
bolt

noun, a type of screw



(Be careful not to lose the nut that goes with that **bolt**.)

noun, an electrical flash, like a bolt of lightning
(The idea struck me like a lightning **bolt**.)



noun, a piece of metal that slides across a door or box to lock it
(When you close the door, slide the **bolt** into place.)



verb, to close something securely

(**Bolt** the door for security before you go to bed, please.)

verb, to run away like a shot

(The frightened animal **bolted** across the field to safety.)

STEPS FOR STUDENTS

Step 1 – Write the Word

Have students create vocabulary cards with different meanings for the word on left and right sides.



<p>noun</p> <p>wave la onda</p>	<p>verb</p> <p>wave saludar</p>
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Step 2 – Add a Visual

Students draw a picture under each word showing the meaning of the word.



Step 3 – Write a Definition

Under each of the words, have the students write a short definition in their own words.

<p>noun wave la onda</p>  <p>a big curl of water</p>	<p>verb wave saludar</p>  <p>a hand movement to say hello or goodbye</p>
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Step 4 – Create a Sentence

At the bottom of the card, students write a sentence that matches their drawing.

<p>noun wave la onda</p>  <p>a big curl of water</p> <p>Hawaii has the best surfing waves.</p>	<p>verb wave saludar</p>  <p>a hand movement to say hello or goodbye</p> <p>The kids on the beach wave hello to friends.</p>
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wave
la onda
saludar

Creative Use of the Cards

Using a set of single-meaning word cards and a set of multiple-meaning word cards, students read the vocabulary card and decide if it belongs to the single or multiple group of cards. They then place it under the label “Single Meaning” or Multiple Meaning.” (Write the answer on the reverse side of each card so students can check their work.)

single-meaning words
animal

multiple-meaning words
address