



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Multiple-Meaning Words 2

Read the sentences below. Look at the underlined word.

Be careful not to drop the glass.

There is only one drop of water left in the jug.

In the first sentence, *drop* is a verb—an action that could happen. In the second sentence, *drop* is a noun—meaning “a small amount.”

### Strategies for Decoding Multiple-Meaning Words

1. **Use context clues.** Ask: *What is the word's part of speech? Do other words in the sentence or nearby sentences give clues about its meaning?*
2. **Use a dictionary.** Look at the different definitions and ask: *Does this definition make sense as it is used in the text?* Keep looking until one definition fits. Pay attention to the pronunciation—you might have heard the word before, but pronounced differently.

Choose the word whose meanings best fit **both** sentences.

- Our math teacher taught us how to find a square \_\_\_\_\_.
- The plant's \_\_\_\_\_ is deep under the ground.  
a. shape    b. root    c. triangle    d. flower
- I did not know Harry was from another country until I heard his \_\_\_\_\_.
- She decided to give her all-blue kitchen a new yellow \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. voice    b. friend    c. accent    d. wall
- The weather announcer said we would have an afternoon \_\_\_\_\_.
- When Aunt Tilly visits, she usually likes to \_\_\_\_\_ me with special gifts.  
a. shower    b. meeting    c. game    d. flow
- My right \_\_\_\_\_ is more green than my left one.
- I stuck the green thread through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the needle.  
a. circle    b. finger    c. eye    d. flower

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### Multiple-Meaning Words 3

Choose a word below that you know and write two definitions for it on the lines provided. Use a dictionary to check your definitions. Then write two sentences for the word, one for each of the two definitions you chose.

ray                      pen                      pit                      pitcher                      sharp

WORD:

Definition 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Sentence 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll** can mean:

- a) to move by turning over and over
- b) to be moved by wheels
- c) something rounded or cylindrical, as in a unit of film
- d) to enclose or wrap in a covering
- e) to cast, as in dice
- f) a list of people in a class or group
- g) a small cake of baked dough
- h) a rapid series of short sounds

Match the following people with the definition of *roll* they most likely would use.

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Baker              | _____ Drummer         |
| _____ Mathematician      | _____ Photographer    |
| _____ Dog Trainer        | _____ Truck Driver    |
| _____ Attendance Officer | _____ Rug Salesperson |

**CHALLENGE** Look up *run* in a dictionary. Find at least four meanings. Think of an occupation that relates to each meaning. Have a peer decide which occupation goes best with which definition.