

Meaning What?

This activity is intended to build awareness that a word may have more than one meaning.

SET UP Display miniatures for words that have more than one meaning. Here are some examples:



bat	orange	pear	saw	fly	straw
glasses	watch	horse	duck	bee	ball
club	bowl	ring	stamp	snap	

ACTIVITY Say sentences like the following, and have the children identify the object that represents a word you are using in the sentence but that also has a different meaning. Then talk with the children about the two ways you might use the same word. Here are some examples:



- I saw a bat flying in the barn. (baseball bat)
- A bird can fly. (the insect fly)
- Put the glasses in the dishwasher when they are dirty. (glasses to read)
- Watch out for the dog. (a watch that tells time)
- Give the sheep some straw. (a straw you use for drinking)
- I have a pair of green socks. (a pear you eat)
- I'm hoarse from talking too much. (a horse)
- She had to duck to get into the playhouse. (a duck that swims)
- Will you be my friend? (a buzzing bee)
- Cinderella went to the ball. (a bouncing ball)
- I belong to a club. (a golf club)
- My family likes to go bowling. (a bowl for cereal)
- The bells ring every morning. (a ring on your finger)
- Stamp your feet if you are cold. (a stamp on an envelope)
- The shirt was orange with black spots. (an orange you eat)
- I saw my dad. (a saw to cut wood)
- Snap your fingers. (a snap on clothes)



EXTENSION Now invite the children to choose an object and make up a sentence using another meaning of the word.