



Reading On The Move

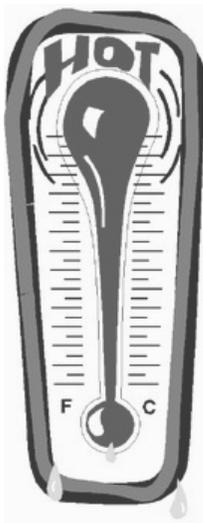
What's the Meaning of This?

Choosing Word Meaning

A good way to add more words to your reading and writing vocabulary is by working with *synonyms* and *antonyms*. A **synonym** is a word that means the same or almost the same thing as another word.

Example: The word **hot** is on the labels of some sauce. The word **spicy** is also on the labels of some sauces. The two words have the same meaning. Sometimes when you describe something that is *spicy*, you call it *hot*. Sometimes when you eat something *hot*, you say that it is very *spicy*. **Hot** and **spicy** are *synonyms*.

Often times, words can have more than one meaning. For example, we have just learned that hot can mean spicy, but hot can also refer to temperature. You can describe the temperature outside as **hot** or you can say it is **warm**. **Hot** and **warm** are *synonyms* because they mean nearly the same thing.



Circle the ***synonym*** for each word. The first one is done for you.

1. gas a. water **b.** fuel c. food
2. earth a. water b. sky c. world
3. field a. land b. water c. house
4. across a. above b. over c. under
5. smile a. frown b. kiss c. grin

Now, write a synonym for each underlined word. The first one is done for you.

6. Miami is a large city in Florida.

Synonym: town

7. My father's house is near the Genesee River.

Synonym: _____

8. Paula has a young puppy to show her brother.

Synonym: _____

9. The small table by the window is for writing letters.

Synonym: _____

10. I slept for an hour.

Synonym: _____

An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word.

Example:



Laugh is the opposite of **cry**



Circle the antonym for each word.

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 11. pretty | a. ugly | b. silly | c. smart |
| 12. dead | a. gone | b. sad | c. alive |
| 13. honest | a. fair | b. dishonest | c. mad |
| 14. less | a. equal | b. smaller | c. more |
| 15. many | a. few | b. a lot | c. more |

Write an **antonym** for the underlined word in each sentence.

16. A weak wind blew the oak tree over last night

Antonym: _____

17. Small children like to work near the fields when their parents pick crops.

Antonym: _____

18. Roberto looked serious in the photo.

Antonym: _____

19. The steep valleys made the walk very hard to complete.

Antonym: _____

20. My soccer team lost the game yesterday.

Antonym: _____

Homonyms are words that sound the same and are sometimes spelled the same, but have different meanings.

Example:

sale: the selling of goods at a reduced price

sail: to move along or travel over water in a boat

← *These two words sound the same, are spelled differently, and have different meanings.*

rose: a type of flower

rose: the past tense of "rise"

← *These two words sound the same, are spelled the same, and have different meanings.*

Some commonly misused homonyms are:

to, too, two:

I went to the store.

I want to go, too.

Two people went to the store.

there, their, they're:

There were many books at the library.

They left their books at home.

They're going to the movies.

weather, whether:

It is nice weather today.

I need to decide whether or not I need a coat.

your, you're:

This is your pencil.

You're very handsome.

It is important to use the correct word in a sentence so that what you are writing makes sense to others. Take a look at the two sentences below:

She took her son to the candy aisle.

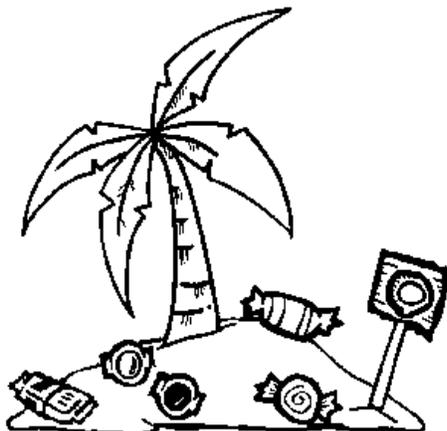
She took her son to the candy isle.

Which underlined word is correct? Isle or aisle? Well, let's explore the meaning of each word.

An aisle is a walkway between seats in a theater, shelves in a store, etc. So, a *candy aisle* is a walkway between shelves of candy at a store. The reader should picture something like the graphic below when reading about a candy aisle.



An isle is another word for a small island. So, a *candy isle* would be a small island filled with candy, which doesn't make much sense. The reader might picture something silly, like the graphic below.



Write a sentence for each homonym. Here is an example:

rains



Heavy rains caused flooding.

reigns



The king reigns over the land.

reins



Grab the reins on the horse.

towed



21.

toad



22.

meet



23.

meat



24.

pear



25.

pair



26.

Circle the word that best completes each sentence. The first one is done for you.

27. He (nose / knows) the answer.
28. A penny is worth one (scent / sent / cent).
29. Please (pour / pore / poor) me a glass of milk.
30. Tonight you will (read / reed) chapter three.
31. The (balled / bald / bawled) man always wears a hat.
32. I have a runny (nose / knows) today.
33. I (new / knew) the correct answer.
34. I can feel cold (heir / air) blowing through the window.
35. The rope was in a tight (knot / not).
36. We will (by / bye / buy) you some ice cream.
37. The little boy (balled / bald / bawled) after he fell down.
38. The morning (due / dew / do) sparkled as the sun rose.
39. (There / Their / They're) car is blue.
40. My (eye / I) is feeling better.
41. He is the (air / heir) to the throne.
42. There are (to / too / two) many people here.
43. My rent is (due / dew / do) tomorrow.
44. (Your / You're) sister is tall.

Write a sentence using each homonym. You may use a dictionary to check the meaning of each word if needed.

45. flower: _____

flour: _____

46. made: _____

maid: _____

47. threw: _____

through: _____

48. here: _____

hear: _____

49. sale: _____

sail: _____

50. hare: _____

hair: _____

Briefly describe more than one meaning of each word below. The first one is done for you.

51. bank: The piece of land by the edge of a river or other body of water.
A place where money is held.

52. bark: _____

53. bat: _____

54. fan: _____

55. fine: _____

Write a sentence using each homonym below.

56. pupil: _____

57. row: _____

58. seal: _____

59. well: _____

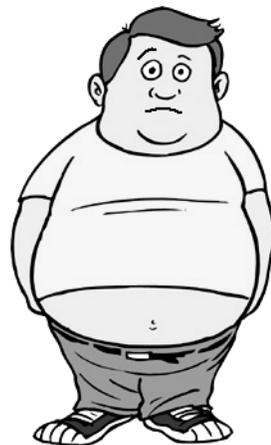
Words have two levels of meaning. A word's **denotation** is the actual meaning of the word that you would find in a dictionary. A word's **connotation** has to do with the positive or negative emotions which we feel when we hear or read the word. A word's denotation and connotation can differ greatly.

Example: *The painting is unique.*
The painting is ugly.

The denotation of these two sentences is very similar, but their connotation is different. The word *unique* has a more positive connotation but the word *ugly* has a negative connotation. Would you rather your painting be called unique or ugly?

Here's another example: *The baby weighed a healthy 10 pounds.*
The baby weighed a hefty 10 pounds.

Would you rather be called healthy or hefty? You would probably like to be called healthy because it carries with it positive feelings, whereas being called hefty brings out negative feelings.



Read each pair of sentences below. Decide which one has a positive connotation and which one has a negative connotation. Write a + next to the positive sentence and a – next to the negative sentence. The first one is done for you.

_____ ~~60~~. Columbus discovered North America.

_____ ~~61~~. Columbus stumbled upon North America.

_____ **62**. The clouds were gloomy and the air was cold.

_____ **63**. The clouds blanketed the earth and the air was brisk.

_____ **64**. Ricardo's brow shimmered with sweat.

_____ **65**. Ricardo's brow dripped with sweat.

_____ **66**. I can't date her; she is too old for me.

_____ **67**. I can't date her; she is too mature for me.

_____ **68**. Reina is stubborn.

_____ **69**. Reina is determined.

Rewrite each sentence below with a different connotation. The first one is done for you.

70. Jenny was being immature.

Jenny was being silly.

71. Raul drives wildly.

72. The soup had an interesting flavor.

73. Her actions were childish.

74. Her skin was fair.

75. His voice was unique.

➔ Answer Key

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------|------------|
| 1. b | 8. little | 15. a |
| 2. c | 9. desk, counter | 16. strong |
| 3. a | 10. napped, rested | 17. play |
| 4. b | 11. a | 18. silly |
| 5. c | 12. c | 19. hills |
| 6. town | 13. b | 20. won |
| 7. home | 14. c | |

21-26. Each sentence will vary. You should write a sentence using the correct meaning of each word listed.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 27. knows | 33. knew | 39. Their |
| 28. cent | 34. air | 40. eye |
| 29. pour | 35. knot | 41. heir |
| 30. read | 36. buy | 42. too |
| 31. bald | 37. bawled | 43. due |
| 32. nose | 38. dew | 44. your |

For numbers 25-30, you will make up your own sentences. Here is the meaning of each homonym and an example sentence:

45. flower: the blossom of a plant (rose, tulip, daisy, etc.)

Ex: Roses are my favorite flower.

flour: a finely ground grain used in baking

Ex: This recipe calls for two cups of flour.

46. made: prepared or forced

Ex: I made chocolate cake for dessert.

maid: a female servant

Ex: The maid washed the floors.

- 47.** threw: to have cast away (past tense of throw)
Ex: He threw the baseball to first base.
through: to pass by or to pass between
Ex: We walked through the garden.
- 48.** here: in this place
Ex: It was right here where we last saw our cat.
hear: to listen
Ex: Do you hear music?
- 49.** sale: the disposal of goods as a low rate
Ex: There was a sale at the clothing store.
sail: the piece of fabric used to catch wind and propel a boat; or to travel by boat
Ex: The sail on my boat is white.
- 50.** hare: a rabbit
Ex: The hare raced the turtle.
hair: the threadlike growth that comes from underneath skin (like on the human head)
My hair is blonde.
- 51.** bank: The piece of land by the edge of a river or other body of water.
A place where money is held.
- 52.** bark: The noise a dog makes.
The exterior of a tree.
- 53.** bat: The instrument used to hit a ball in baseball.
A type of flying mammal.
- 54.** fan: A supporter of a sports team, celebrity, or other figures.
An instruments that produces currents of air.
- 55.** fine: A fee to be paid from the result of a wrong-doing.
Of high quality.

For numbers 36-39, you will make up your own sentences. Here is the meaning of each homonym and an example sentence:

56. pupil: The black center of an eye which is responsible for letting in and keeping out light; or a student.

Ex: He is an excellent pupil.

Ex: The pupil is part of the eye.

57. row: Persons or objects in a line; or to propel a boat using oars.

Ex: Everyone sitting in the third row should stand up now.

Ex: I row the boat with two oars.

58. seal: A marine animal; or an official mark or stamp; or to close in a manner that would need to be broken in order to be opened.

Ex: That seal is a very clever animal.

Ex: This document has the king's royal seal.

Ex: Seal the envelope once you putt your letter in it.

59. well: in good health; or a container in the ground which holds water.

Ex: I am not feeling very well.

Ex: Please fetch some water from the well.

60. +

63. +

66. -

69. +

61. -

64. +

67. +

62. -

65. -

68. -

For numbers 70-75, you will make up your own sentences. Here are some examples:

70. Jenny was being silly.

71. Raul drives recklessly.

72. The soup had a wonderful flavor.

73. Her actions were immature.

74. Her skin was pale.

75. His voice was weird.