Same word, different clue

Partner sheet: listen, choose a meaning, then point to the clue. Grown-ups: keep the key on page 2 separate.

Try one pair at a time. A partner may read every sentence aloud. Circle A or B for each sentence, or say the answer. Use a word, phrase or action in the sentence to explain your choice. Take a break whenever you like.

Example: Jo gave a wave with her hand. Here, wave means a greeting movement. The clue is with her hand; it is not an ocean wave.

---

1. bark A: A dog sound | B: The outside of a tree
   1. The dog gave one loud bark when the doorbell rang. A / B
   2. Mina rubbed the rough bark on the old tree trunk. A / B

---

2. bat A: A flying animal | B: A piece of sports equipment
   1. Jo held the bat firmly and waited for the next pitch. A / B
   2. At dusk, a small bat flew out of the cave. A / B

---

3. light A: Not heavy | B: Something that helps us see
   1. The empty cardboard box was light enough to lift with one hand. A / B
   2. The hallway was dark, so Ari switched on the light. A / B

---

4. park A: A public outdoor place | B: To leave a vehicle in a space
   1. Dad will park the car beside the shop before we walk inside. A / B
   2. The children met at the park to use the swings. A / B

---

5. ring A: A sound made by a bell | B: A circular piece of jewellery
   1. The ring had a tiny blue stone and fit on one finger. A / B
   2. The ring of the bicycle bell made us look up. A / B

Ask for the clue

The purpose is a conversation about meaning. This activity is not a reading-level test or a prediction of school results.

Support without rushing: read the whole sentence, give time to think, and ask, "Which words helped you choose?" If an answer differs, compare the clue with both meanings. Explain an unfamiliar word first. Skip a pair if it is not useful today.

1. bark - sentence 1: A; sentence 2: B

   1. The dog and the sound point to A. 2. The tree trunk and its rough surface point to B.

2. bat - sentence 1: B; sentence 2: A

   1. Holding it before a pitch points to B. 2. Flying out of a cave points to A.

3. light - sentence 1: A; sentence 2: B

   1. Being easy to lift points to A. 2. Darkness and switching it on point to B.

4. park - sentence 1: B; sentence 2: A

   1. The car and where to leave it point to B. 2. Meeting outdoors by the swings points to A.

5. ring - sentence 1: B; sentence 2: A

   1. The stone and finger point to B. 2. The bicycle bell and looking up point to A.

Try a transfer: choose one word and say a new sentence for each meaning. The listener names the clue. An answer can be useful even when its wording differs from the key.

Optional next activity for grown-ups

Honest Little Apps publishes Brainy Bucks: Math & Reading. This original free companion is separate from the app. The iPhone/iPad app offers free daily quests and optional paid Plus features; check Apple for current local offers.

App Store

View Brainy Bucks on the App Store - click or scan.