

## Pre-Activity



There is going to be a new playground.

They're taking a poll to find out what children want.

My favorite thing to do is to climb and slide down the pole of the jungle gym. What's yours, Jim?

Which pairs of words in the sentences sound alike?

Try to think of some other pairs of words that sound alike.

## Activity

**A.** Underline the words that sound alike.

1. The teacher allowed the students to read aloud.
2. Although deer eat her flowers, my dear Aunt Sally still enjoys seeing them.
3. The custodian in the pale blue shirt emptied her pail.
4. Kevin's role in the play involves eating a roll at a diner.
5. Jasmine, please come here so you can hear me.

**B.** Circle the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Did you eat the (pear, pair) I left for you on the table?
2. Please (right, write) a letter to your grandfather and I will mail it for you.
3. May I please have a (peace, piece) of the pie?
4. The department store downtown is having a huge (sale, sail) on fishing rods.
5. Whenever Wanda throws a party, she always has far (to, two, too) much food.

## Post-Activity

Work with a friend. Each pick a page from a favorite book. Then count the number of homonyms you find on that page. See who found the most.



## Grammar Connection

*Homonyms* are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings.

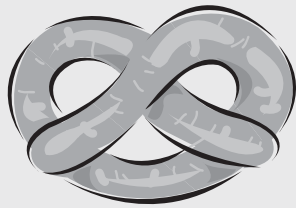
## Extra

The words *to*, *too*, and *two* are a homonym threesome. Can you think of another set of homonyms that come in three? Hint: A common set begins with the letters *th*.



## Language Strategy

When a homonym is used in speech, the careful listener can tell which word is meant by the way it is used in the sentence.



### Extra

Homonyms are everywhere! Read the instructions for the Pre-Activity again. How many words have homonyms?

## Pre-Activity

Play a trick. Say these words aloud and ask a friend to write them on a piece of paper:

plain                  bear

Look at what your friend wrote. Did he or she write homonyms for the words? (plane, bare) If so, tell him or her that the words are spelled wrong. See how long before your friend catches on to what you're doing.

## Activity

**A.** Complete each sentence with the correct word.

sent      cent      scent

1. Charles's mother \_\_\_\_\_ him to the store to get flour and salt.
2. Later, a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ drifted from the kitchen.
3. His grandmother said that when she was a girl, a pretzel stick cost one \_\_\_\_\_.

**B.** Each group of letters can be rearranged to spell a homonym of the word paired with it. Unscramble each word and write the pair of homonyms on the lines.

- |          |              |               |              |
|----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. HINTG | <u>night</u> | 5. LAINP      | _____        |
|          | GIKTHN       | <u>knight</u> | LEAPN _____  |
| 2. ATEM  | _____        | 6. IFRA       | _____        |
|          | TEME         | _____         | RAFE _____   |
| 3. ONW   | _____        | 7. LUFOR      | _____        |
|          | EON          | _____         | WORELF _____ |
| 4. RTEWI | _____        | 8. DAER       | _____        |
|          | TGHIR        | _____         | DRE _____    |

## Post-Activity

Writing a sentence that uses two homonyms is not easy. Try writing a couple in your journal.

## Pre-Activity

Have you ever heard someone say it's "raining cats and dogs"? Does that mean cats and dogs are falling from the sky? Is it good or bad when someone says, "You're the apple of my eye"? Do you know any other expressions like these?



## Grammar Connection

An *idiom* is a group of words that when used together mean something different from what those same words mean when used on their own.

## Activity

**A.** Each sentence below contains an idiom that is underlined. Write what you think each one means.

1. Greta put her John Hancock on the contract.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Since Linda left her new baseball mitt out in the rain, she's been in the doghouse.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. My sister loves studying algebra, but it is Greek to me.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Good answer! You hit the nail on the head.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Before school starts, you better turn over a new leaf.

\_\_\_\_\_

**B.** Match each idiom to its meaning.

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. John Hancock             | change        |
| 2. in the doghouse          | exactly right |
| 3. Greek to me              | in trouble    |
| 4. hit the nail on the head | signature     |
| 5. turn over a new leaf     | difficult     |

## Post-Activity

Use an idiom at lunch or dinner. Do people know what you mean? Ask them about others they may know. Later, list some idioms in your journal.

## Extra

For fun, make up your own idiom. Choose one that makes sense and that you can explain. Then start to use it. See if other people start using it, too.



## Grammar Connection

A *prefix* is a group of letters added to the front of a word that gives the word a different meaning.

## Pre-Activity

The teacher wanted to preview the film before the class could view it. Then he wanted students to review it. The words *preview* and *review* are based on the word *view*. Can you figure out what *pre* and *re* mean?

## Activity

**A.** Add one of these prefixes to each word to create a new word. Then match to the definition.

re   un   dis   in

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>re</u> store   | a. hidden or unseen    |
| 2. _____ appear      | b. because of bad luck |
| 3. _____ fortunately | c. put back            |
| 4. _____ visible     | d. to be out of sight  |

**B.** Fill in each blank with a word you created above.

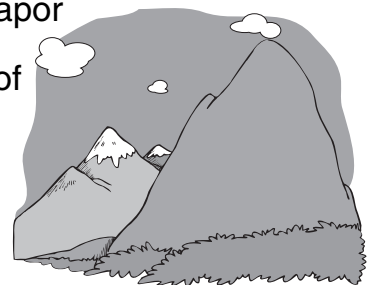
The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is visited more than any other U.S. park. \_\_\_\_\_, the park is having trouble with air pollution and acid rain. Scientists are trying to stop the pollution and \_\_\_\_\_ clean air. The pollution is not how the mountains got their name.

The name comes from a natural blue mist that floats in the mountains. The mist is made up of tiny, nearly

\_\_\_\_\_ drops of water vapor

and plant oil from the park's millions of trees. Some mountaintops seem to

\_\_\_\_\_ into the clouds.



## Post-Activity

Have you ever been to the Great Smoky Mountains or another park? Write about the experience in your journal. Or write about an imaginary trip to the top of a mountain. Then look at the sentences you wrote. Circle any prefixes you used.