

Common Words Used Figuratively

The following words are familiar to you and you may use them every day. However, these words can also be used in *other* ways by an author to paint a picture in your mind. In a way, they are multiple-meaning words. They are actually being used as figurative language.

plastic

breeze

music

fruit

Read each pair of sentences. Choose a word from the box that will fit in each sentence from the pair, and still make sense! Then choose the meaning of the word as it is used figuratively in sentence B of each pair.

Example:

1. A. David looks forward to _____ class because the teacher is helping him learn how to play guitar.
B. That night, we lay in our tent listening to the _____ of the crickets as we fell asleep.

The word *music* will fit in each of the above sentences. Write *music* in each blank.

What is the meaning of the word in the blank as it is used in sentence B?

- A. rhythmic sounds from instruments or singers
- B. harmonious sounds that are pleasing to the ear
- C. loud noises that are startling
- D. harsh, sharp sounds that are irritating

The correct answer would be *B. harmonious sounds that are pleasing to the ear*. Though the literal meaning of music is *rhythmic sounds from instruments or singers*, the author of sentence B is describing the sound of crickets, not instruments. Using context clues, we can tell that it is a pleasant, harmonious sound, or else the campers would not be able to fall asleep.

2. A. The strong _____ rustled the leaves in the tree.
B. Julia went out to play early today; her homework was a _____!

What is the meaning of the word in the blank as it is used in sentence B?

- A. something easy to do
- B. a gust of air
- C. a light wind
- D. something unpleasant to do

3. A. Brian always eats _____ with breakfast, and bananas are his favorite.
B. After working all day in the hot sun, Marta was able to sit back and enjoy the _____ of her efforts in her new tree house.

What is the meaning of the word in the blank as it is used in sentence B?

- A. shade and relaxation
- B. food, such as apples, bananas, and pears
- C. the part of a plant we eat that contains seeds
- D. benefits that come from work; a reward for effort made

4. A. We gave my little brother a _____ cup instead of a glass, so that he wouldn't break it.
B. My mom was disappointed with our family photo. She said that all of our smiles were _____.

What is the meaning of the word in the blank as it is used in sentence B?

- A. credit cards
- B. a material that can be molded and then hardened to keep its form
- C. fake or false
- D. sad or unhappy

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