

PURPOSE: This strategy helps students identify the many meanings of common words since everyday words often have more than one meaning.

Strategy 4 Instructions – Multiple-Meaning Words

1. **Prior to reading**, select a few words from the text that have more than one meaning. Students benefit from learning the word before reading it. For instance, words like run, check, pitch, bat, jam, bill, left, mean, and many more words have various meanings.
2. Select a word and list the meanings of the word.
3. Include a sentence so that the student hears the word in context.
4. Ask the student to make sentences using the various meanings of the word.
 - a. Example: MEAN
 - i. What do you mean? I didn't mean to do that.
 - ii. The boy was mean when he took the toy away.
 - iii. The mean of all these numbers is....
5. **For practice**, use handout “Word Meaning-Word Web” for an activity to practice with words that have multiple meanings.
6. **EXTENSION:** You can also include activities to teach homophones (words that sound alike but have different meanings and different spellings — to, too, two). Use handout, “Word Knowledge-Homophone Hunt,” to make flipbooks and read the words in context.

Facilitator Note: Some of the graphic organizer handouts are student resources that are used with permission from the Florida Center for Research: home page <http://www.fcrr.org>