

## LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE MEANING

**Literal Meaning:** when a word is used with its normal meaning, it is being used in its strict dictionary meaning, in a situation (or context) that "makes sense" from a purely logical point of view.

**Examples:** The robber struck me on the arm with a piece of wood.

Be careful! That knife is very sharp.

**Figurative Meaning:** when a word is used with a special, non-literal meaning, we say that it is used in a figurative sense (or with a figurative meaning).

**Examples:** As I was walking pass I was struck with an idea.

He has a very sharp tongue.

Read the sentences. Pay attention to the word in **bold type**. Write "L" for literal and "F" for figurative in the spaces.

EXERCISE A	
1. The <b>weight</b> of a diamond is expressed in carats.	
2. The teacher told the student to stop <b>dancing</b> around the question and answer it!	
3. Janice was feeling <b>under the weather</b> .	
4. I saw when the bird <b>flew</b> into the classroom.	
5. Jack was sent home from school early because he was <b>burning</b> up.	
6. <b>Dancing</b> is a good form of exercise.	
7. Antonio is a <b>sweet</b> young child.	
8. If you borrow money from a loan <b>shark</b> , you can get into trouble.	
9. At the sight of the changing room, Mr. Cartwright <b>flew</b> into a rage.	
10. It was so hot there was no <b>air</b> moving.	
11. This tea is too <b>sweet</b> .	
12. The toddler <b>brushed</b> his teeth very well.	

