

## 1 Meaning and style

## A Asking about meaning

- A Would it be accurate to say that *student* and *pupil* are synonymous?
  - B No, not exactly. A *student* is a person who studies in a school, college or university. *Pupil* has a more restricted use. A *pupil* is someone who only studies in a school, especially a primary school.
- A It's a bit ambiguous to say *she's a good student*, isn't it?
  - B Yes, you can interpret it in different ways. *Good* can mean 'well-behaved' or 'hard-working'.
- A The meaning of *wrapping paper* is fairly obvious, isn't it?
  - B Yes, it's self-explanatory: just paper for wrapping presents and stuff.
- A Can you give me a precise definition of *soul*?
  - B Well, it's virtually the same as *spirit*: the part of you that is believed to exist after you die. But *spirit* has several other meanings too.

GLOSSARY	
<b>accurate</b>	exact and correct; without mistakes OPP <b>inaccurate; accuracy</b> <i>n</i>
<b>synonymous</b>	having the same, or nearly the same meaning <b>synonym</b> <i>n</i>
<b>restricted</b>	controlled or limited
<b>ambiguous</b>	not clear; able to be explained in different ways <b>ambiguity</b> <i>n</i>
<b>interpret</b>	explain the meaning of sth <b>interpretation</b> <i>n</i>
<b>self-explanatory</b>	easy to understand and not needing more explanation
<b>precise</b>	clear and accurate SYN <b>exact; precision</b> <i>n</i>
<b>virtually</b>	almost, very nearly: <b>virtually the same</b> <b>virtual</b> <i>adj</i>

1 Mark the stress on these words. Use the  to help you.

1 accurate                    3 synonymous                    5 ambiguity                    7 interpretation  
2 synonym                    4 ambiguous                    6 interpret                    8 self-explanatory

2 Is the meaning the same or different? Write S or D.

- 1 The meaning is virtually the same. / The meaning is exactly the same.
- 2 They are both students in my school. / They are both pupils in my school.
- 3 The meaning is quite precise. / The meaning is quite restricted.
- 4 The sentence is ambiguous. / The sentence can be interpreted in two ways.
- 5 I don't know the exact meaning. / I don't know the precise meaning.
- 6 Tom is fairly inaccurate. / Tom makes very few mistakes.
- 7 His soul will live on. / His spirit will live on.
- 8 What she said was fairly ambiguous. / What she said was fairly accurate.

3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in capitals at the end.

1	If you want to make something clear, it's better to avoid .....	AMBIGUOUS
2	She always expresses herself with .....	PRECISE
3	<b>Hide</b> and <b>conceal</b> are very similar, but not completely .....	SYNONYM
4	Elsie is quite fluent but she lacks .....	ACCURATE
5	I think this sentence is open to .....	INTERPRET
6	The instructions were .....; a child could understand them.	EXPLAIN
7	They are ..... opposites.	VIRTUAL

#### 4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What's the exact meaning of **huge**? .....
- 2 Which word is more restricted: **get** or **acquire**? Why? .....
- 3 Is the meaning of **waiting room** fairly self-explanatory? Why? / Why not? .....
- 4 Are **slim** and **thin** synonyms? Why? / Why not? .....
- 5 Is it accurate to say that a pupil studies in a secondary school? Why? / Why not? .....
- 6 *I picked up my bag.* Why could this sentence be ambiguous? .....



## B Explaining style

Example	Meaning
<i>Thanks for your help, Sam,' she said ironically. Sam hadn't helped at all.</i>	<b>ironically</b> using words to say the opposite of what you mean, often humorously <b>ironic adj; irony n</b>
The <b>literal</b> sense of <b>gold</b> is 'a valuable yellow metal used to make coins, jewellery, etc.'	<b>literal</b> (of words and phrases) being the basic or usual meaning <b>literally adv</b>
<b>Golden</b> is used <b>figuratively</b> in the sentence <i>Working in this company is a golden opportunity for him.</i>	<b>figuratively</b> (of words and phrases) not used in the basic or usual way, but in a way that makes a description more interesting ( <b>Golden</b> here means 'wonderful' or 'special') <b>figurative adj</b>
<i>She has a heart of gold</i> is an example of a <b>metaphor</b> . It means 'she is a very kind person'.	<b>metaphor</b> a word or phrase used to describe sb/sth else in a way that is different from its normal use <b>metaphorical adj = figurative</b>
The dictionary marks <b>stupid</b> as <b>disapproving</b> .	<b>disapproving</b> (often used in dictionaries) showing that sth is bad or wrong
In <b>slang</b> , a <b>shrink</b> is a psychiatrist or a psychologist.	<b>slang</b> very informal words and phrases, used by particular groups of people in spoken language
<b>Swear words</b> are <b>offensive</b> to many people and not <b>appropriate</b> in most everyday conversations.	<b>offensive</b> rude in a way that causes you to be upset or angry <b>OPP inoffensive</b> <b>appropriate</b> suitable or correct <b>OPP inappropriate</b>
<i>He called Tom 'an old woman'. How <b>insulting</b>!</i>	<b>insulting</b> rude or offensive <b>insult n, v</b>

### SPOTLIGHT *swear*

**Swearing** is the use of **swear words** (= rude or offensive language). If you **swear at** somebody, you might make them angry. **Swear** can also mean to make a serious promise to do something.

■ *He swore that he would kill anyone who touched me.*

### 5 Underline the words which usually suggest something negative.

disapproving      figurative      inappropriate      insulting      irony  
literal              metaphor              offensive              slang              swearing

### 6 Circle the correct word(s). Sometimes both words are correct.

- 1 The **literal / figurative** meaning of **curtain** is a piece of cloth which covers a window.
- 2 The **curtain fell on her career** is **figurative / metaphorical**. It means 'her career ended'.
- 3 **Irony / Slang** is commonly used to say the opposite of what you mean.
- 4 Ana is so kind; she has a heart of **silver / gold**.
- 5 It may be **appropriate / inappropriate** to ask someone how much they earn or how old they are.
- 6 He was being **ironic / offensive** – he didn't mean to be rude.
- 7 I think it was **a metaphor / an insult** to say you were stupid.
- 8 Swearing is **offensive / inoffensive** to many people.

### 7 Complete the sentences with a suitable word.

- 1 **Naïve** often has a negative meaning and is marked '.....' in the dictionary.
- 2 **Flood** is one of those words that can be used literally or .....
- 3 He said my food was tasteless, which I found incredibly .....
- 4 **Knackered** is very informal, means 'extremely tired', and is an example of British English .....
- 5 The offer is a ..... opportunity for my brother to work abroad for a year.
- 6 **Pull your socks up** is often used as a ..... meaning 'you must work harder and do better'.
- 7 A man ..... at me in the street because I got in his way. I was very upset.
- 8 They live ..... just round the corner, so I see them every day.

### TEST YOURSELF