

# Homographs

Words with more than one meaning

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



- a. His bark is worse than his bite.
  
- b. You hit the nail on the head.
  
- c. She is a mine of information.
  
- d. There is a huge traffic jam in Bolton today.
  
- e. The pool is 2 metres deep.
  
- f. Children like orange squash.
  
- g. It was a bolt from the blue.
  
- h. You need patience to train a dog.
  
- i. Mind the gap.
  
- j. I know what you mean.

# Homographs

## Teaching notes

### UK Terminology

## Homonym

A word with the same spelling *or* pronunciation as another word, but a different meaning.

### Homograph

A word that has the same spelling as another word but a different meaning and sometimes a different pronunciation.

E.g. cricket **bat**, vampire **bat**; **bow** of a ship, **bow** to the audience.

#### Heteronym (US only)

A word that has the same spelling as another word but a different pronunciation *and* a different meaning.

E.g. a sandy **desert**, don't **desert** me; **tears** in her eyes, **tears** up the paper.

### Homophone

A word that sounds the same as another word but has a different spelling and a different meaning.

E.g. there – their – they're  
peddle – pedal  
peace – piece  
pause – paws – pores – pours  
sew – so – sow  
dessert – desert

Discuss the sentences as a group or in pairs. All the sentences contain a word that has more than one meaning. The list includes some common sayings. Use as a warm-up for an Entry Level reading lesson to improve learners' vocabulary, and to show the importance of context when working out the meaning of a word.

- a. His **bark** is worse than his bite.
- b. You **hit** the nail on the head.
- c. She is a **mine** of information.
- d. There is a huge traffic **jam** in Bolton today.
- e. The pool is 2 metres **deep**.
- f. Children like orange **squash**.
- g. It was a **bolt** from the **blue**.
- h. You need patience to **train** a dog.
- i. **Mind** the gap.
- j. I know what you **mean**.