

Intermediate Reading Course. Section 1: The Basics

**Practice. Words with Multiple Meanings**

**Instructions.** [Based on this lesson](#), match the word meaning with the sentence where it is used with that meaning.

See the example below:

Word: **term**

Sentences:

- A. "Dwarf planet" is the scientific **term** used to describe celestial bodies such as Pluto.
- B. The president served a single **term** before he was impeached.

Meanings:

- 1. a fixed period of time during which someone holds a political office
- 2. a word or phrase used to describe a particular thing

Answer: A - 2    B - 1 (*Sentence A uses Meaning 2; Sentence B uses Meaning 1.*)

1. Word: **mass**

Sentences:

- A. The **mass** of protesters in the streets grew larger and larger.
- B. Mars is only 11% of the Earth's **mass**.

Meanings:

- 1. a large number or quantity of something
- 2. the quantity of matter in an object

Answer:



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## 2. Word: **ripe**

Sentences:

- A. Bananas do not taste very good unless they are **ripe**.
- B. The company's plan is **ripe** for implementation.

Meanings:

- 1. ready for a particular action
- 2. (of fruit) fully developed and ready to be picked and eaten

Answer:

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## 3. Word: **clap**

Sentences:

- A. When the senator finished his impassioned speech, the crowd began to **clap**.
- B. He had to **clap** his hand over his mouth to stop from laughing during class.

Meanings:

- 1. strike the palms of your hands together as a sign of approval or appreciation
- 2. put something in place with a quick motion

Answer:

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## 4. Word: **bleak**

Sentences:

- A. After the storm, the **bleak** landscape was covered in snow and ice.
- B. Due to the recession, the company's financial future is **bleak**.

Meanings:

- 1. cold, hard, lifeless
- 2. hopeless

Answer:

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### 5. Word: **fortune**

Sentences:

- A. He made his **fortune** selling car parts.
- B. It was **fortune** that brought them together when they most needed each other.

Meanings:

- 1. chance or luck
- 2. a large amount of money or property

Answer:

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### 6. Word: **desolate**

Sentences:

- A. The dust storm blew through the **desolate** town.
- B. From the **desolate** look on his face, I knew something had gone terribly wrong.

Meanings:

- 1. deserted and isolated
- 2. unhappy, alone, and hopeless

Answer:

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### 7. Word: **nasty**

Sentences:

- A. After a sunny morning, the weather turned **nasty** quickly in the afternoon.
- B. His **nasty** comments made everyone feel uneasy.

Meanings:

- 1. unpleasant, offensive, or unkind
- 2. unpleasant or dangerous

Answer:

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## 8. Word: **model**

Sentences:

- A. The architect used a **model** so her client could have a better idea what the building would look like when finished.
- B. She was a role **model** for many young women in her community.

Meanings:

- 1. an ideal or example for others to look up to
- 2. a representation of something, often used to test a design

Answer:

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## 9. Word: **smother**

Sentences:

- A. The smoke from the fire began to **smother** the room.
- B. The overbearing mother **smothered** her children, so they never learned to make their own decisions.

Meanings:

- 1. take away one's freedom or independence by being overly protective or controlling
- 2. deprive of air or oxygen (thus making it difficult to breathe)

Answer:

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## 10. Word: **critical**

Sentences:

- A. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a **critical** moment in American history.
- B. The instructor was very **critical** of his students' written work, pointing out all logical and grammatical errors.

Meanings:

- 1. involving an analysis or evaluation
- 2. essential or of decisive importance

Answer:

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## 11. Word: **transparent**

Sentences:

- A. The glass windows were completely **transparent** so we could see everything going on in the office.
- B. To prevent any suspicion of corruption, the company's financial records were made **transparent** to the public.

Meanings:

- 1. open and honest, without hidden motives or intentions
- 2. allowing light to pass through so that objects behind it can be seen clearly

Answer:

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## 12. Word: **substantial**

Sentences:

- A. The company's **substantial** profits allowed them to expand their operations.
- B. She made a **substantial** contribution to the charity, which helped to fund their programs.

Meanings:

- 1. large in size, amount, or extent
- 2. significant, meaningful, or valuable

Answer:

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## Answer Key

1. A-1 B-2
2. A-2 B-1
3. A-1 B-2
4. A-1 B-2
5. A-2 B-1
6. A-1 B-2
7. A-2 B-1
8. A-2 B-1
9. A-2 B-1
10. A-1 B-2
11. A-2 B-1
12. A-2 B-1

