

Words with more than one meaning

Sometimes you will see that a word in your dictionary has more than one meaning. In order to find out the exact meaning of a word like that, you have to **choose the meaning** that is **right for the passage**. Remember: the first meaning that the dictionary gives may not be the one you need!

In the exercise below, each of the **words** has two or more meanings. Your job is to write the number of the correct meaning beside each example sentence.

rusty: 1) coated with rust (of a metal)
2) less effective because of disuse or neglect

_____ I used to play tennis a lot but then I stopped for a long time. Now my game is **rusty**.

_____ There was a **rusty** nail in the tire of my car.

_____ If you do not paint your bicycle, it will get **rusty**.

_____ I'm a bit **rusty** at the moment, but with a little practice I can be very good at skiing.

elegant 1) showing good taste, grace, or good manners
2) fine, excellent, superior quality

_____ The well-dressed woman walked into the room in a very **elegant** way.

_____ My friend just bought an expensive house in an **elegant** part of town.

_____ In my opinion a Mercedes is the most **elegant** kind of car.

bold 1) daring, willing to take risks
2) fearless, not afraid of danger
3) impudent, not polite
4) prominent, clear, easy to see

_____ The **bold** police officer arrested the armed robber.

_____ I wanted to take a third donut, but I was afraid that I might seem too **bold**.

_____ When business people see a chance to make a deal, they often must act quickly and **boldly**.

_____ At the top of the test it said READ ALL THE QUESTIONS FIRST, in **bold** letters.

_____ In hockey, a good goalie must **boldly** stop pucks shot at over 150 km per hour.

stretch 1) pull out to full or to greater length
2) hold out or extend

_____ **Stretch** your arm up into the tree and pick an apple for me, please.

_____ I **stretched** my socks too much, and now they don't fit.

_____ An elephant can **stretch** its trunk in any direction, to do many things.

disaster 1) an event that causes a lot of harm or damage
2) a person or thing that is very bad, harmful or unsuccessful

_____ I didn't study at all for the Grammar exam and my mark was a real **disaster**.

_____ The crash of the US Space Shuttle was a major **disaster**.

_____ Most cities have plans for the police and the fire department, in case of a **disaster**.

steep 1) having a sharp slope
2) excessive, too great

_____ The hill was too **steep** for the old car to climb.

_____ I like the food at that restaurant, but the prices are really **steep**.

_____ A **steep** staircase went down into the basement of the house.

impatient 1) not patient; easily annoyed at delay, discomfort etc.
2) unwilling to tolerate
3) eager to go, do, or act
4) showing lack of patience

_____ While I tried to find the right change, the cashier tapped her toe **impatiently**.

_____ The strict father was **impatient** with his child's disobedience.

_____ If you are **impatient**, you will find it hard not to get angry when there is a traffic jam.

_____ The racers were **impatient** to hear the sound of the starter's pistol.

_____ Good teachers should not be too **impatient** if a pupil learns slowly.

score 1) cut, scratch or notch made on a surface
2) record of money owing
3) record of points, goals etc. made by a player or team in a sport
4) reason, account, explanation
5) paper copy of music, showing what note each musician must play or sing

_____ After drinking all night, he found that he had quite a **score** to pay.

_____ Did you see the **score** at the end of the game?

_____ Unfortunately, the beautiful old table had a bad **score** on one leg.

_____ Toronto is rather polluted, but on that **score** Hamilton is no better.

_____ The **score** was tied at the end of the first period.

_____ The trumpeter showed me his very complicated **score**.