

Name _____

Date _____

Words with Multiple Meanings

Definition

Words with multiple meanings have two or more definitions depending on context. These words look and sound identical but express different ideas in different situations.

Example

Word	Meaning 1	Meaning 2	Meaning 3
bat	a flying mammal	a wooden stick for baseball	to hit or flutter eyelashes
light	not heavy	illumination	to ignite
run	to move quickly	to manage	a score in baseball
bank	a financial institution	the side of a river	to tilt or incline
fair	just or reasonable	an exhibition	clear weather

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Choose the correct meaning of the underlined multiple meaning word in each sentence about Roman gladiator culture.

1. The ring where gladiators fought was called the arena.

- a) circular piece of jewelry
- b) circular fighting space
- c) sound of a bell
- d) group of people working together

2. The emperor would call the final decision on a defeated gladiator's fate.

- a) shout
- b) telephone
- c) make
- d) name

3. A gladiator had to train rigorously to prepare for combat.

- a) series of connected vehicles
- b) exercise and practice
- c) teach someone
- d) part of a dress

4. The crowds would fan themselves in the hot Colosseum.

- a) admirer of someone famous
- b) device used to create air movement
- c) spread out
- d) wave something to create breeze

5. Many gladiators fought to break free from slavery.

- a) escape
- b) damage
- c) pause
- d) violate

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Part 2: Fill in the Blank

For each sentence, write the appropriate meaning of the multiple meaning word in parentheses as it applies to Roman gladiator culture.

1. The word "arena" can mean a sandy ground for combat or a modern sports venue. (Definition of "ground" in this context: _____)

2. Gladiators needed to guard against attacks from their opponents. (Definition of "guard" in this context: _____)

3. The net gladiator, called a retiarius, used his equipment to catch opponents. (Definition of "net" in this context: _____)

4. Spectators would stand and cheer when a gladiator won a match. (Definition of "stand" in this context: _____)

5. Gladiator schools would post the names of their fighters before matches. (Definition of "post" in this context: _____)

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Words with Multiple Meanings – Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. b) circular fighting space
2. c) make
3. b) exercise and practice
4. d) wave something to create breeze
5. a) escape

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. Definition of "ground" in this context: surface covered with sand; fighting surface
2. Definition of "guard" in this context: protect oneself; defend against attacks
3. Definition of "net" in this context: mesh material used as a weapon to entangle opponents
4. Definition of "stand" in this context: rise to one's feet; get up from a seated position
5. Definition of "post" in this context: display publicly; announce by attaching written information