

Name _____

Date _____

Puns

A **pun** is a form of figurative language that plays on the multiple meanings of a word or the similarity between the sounds of different words to create humor or an alternative interpretation. Puns often rely on **double meanings**, **homophones**, or **wordplay** to engage the reader or listener.

Example:

We were all very grave when we visited the cemetery.
The word "grave" means both serious and a burial site.

For each pun below, underline the word or words that create the pun. On the lines underneath the pun, explain the two meanings of the word or phrase.

1. It's pointless to write with a broken pencil.

Explanation: _____

2. It's hard to beat a boiled egg for breakfast.

Explanation: _____

3. A burglar at a construction site fell into the concrete mixer. He became a hardened criminal.

Explanation: _____

4. Growing up, we were too poor to pay attention.

Explanation: _____

5. Why can't a bicycle stand on its own? It's two tired.

Explanation: _____

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7. Elizabeth was fired from her job at the hamburger stand for putting her hair in a bun.

Explanation: _____

8. A fish with no eyes is called a fsh.

Explanation: _____

9. The scarecrow won an award because he was outstanding in his field.

Explanation: _____

10. I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough.

Explanation: _____

11. I was struggling to figure out how lightning works, but then it struck me.

Explanation: _____

12. The dog couldn't find his bone because he buried it too deep in thought.

Explanation: _____

13. I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

Explanation: _____

14. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.

Explanation: _____

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Puns – Answer Key

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Example:

We were all very grave when we visited the cemetery.
The word "grave" means both serious and a burial site.

For each pun below, underline the word or words that create the pun. On the lines underneath the pun, explain the two meanings of the word or phrase.

1. It's pointless to write with a broken pencil.

Explanation: Pointless refers to both the pencil's broken tip (lacking a point) and the lack of purpose in writing with it.

2. It's hard to beat a boiled egg for breakfast.

Explanation: Beat refers to both "defeat" (it's hard to find something better) and the action of beating eggs in cooking.

3. A burglar at a construction site fell into the concrete mixer. He became a hardened criminal.

Explanation: Hardened criminal refers to both a seasoned criminal and the hardening of the concrete he fell into.

4. Growing up, we were too poor to pay attention.

Explanation: Pay attention refers to both paying money and the act of focusing.

5. Why can't a bicycle stand on its own? It's two tired.

Explanation: Two tired refers to "too tired" (exhausted) and the bicycle's two tires.

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Puns – Answer Key

7. Elizabeth was fired from her job at the hamburger stand for putting her hair in a bun.

Explanation: Bun refers to a hairstyle and a bread bun used in hamburgers.

8. A fish with no eyes is called a fsh.

Explanation: Fsh is the word "fish" without the letter "i," mimicking the sound of a fish with no "eyes."

9. The scarecrow won an award because he was outstanding in his field.

Explanation: Outstanding refers to both being excellent and literally standing out in a field.

10. I used to be a baker, but I couldn't make enough dough.

Explanation: Dough refers to both money and the dough used in baking.

11. I was struggling to figure out how lightning works, but then it struck me.

Explanation: Struck me refers to lightning striking and the realization hitting.

12. The dog couldn't find his bone because he buried it too deep in thought.

Explanation: Buried in thought refers to deep thinking and literally burying something.

13. I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

Explanation: Dawned on me refers to both the sun rising and a realization occurring.

14. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one.

Explanation: Hole in one refers to a perfect golf shot and a literal hole in his pants.