

7 More than one meaning

Words often have several meanings that can be very different. For example, 'high' can have six possible meanings.

high ADJECTIVE

- 1 far above the ground, or reaching a long way upwards
- 2 having a specified measurement from top to bottom ♦ *The tower is over twenty metres high.*
- 3 above average level in importance, quality, or amount ♦ *Such fruits have high levels of protein.*
- 4 near the top of the range in a musical scale
- 5 meat is high when it is beginning to go bad
- 6 (informal) a person is high when they are affected by a drug



GETTING STARTED

Find two separate meanings for each of the following words.

1. balloon

2. train

3. caravan

4. plane



MOVING ON

Read the following sentences and circle the meaning of the highlighted word. Check in your dictionary that you are correct.

The sun hadn't cleared the ridge of the mountains opposite and it was still **chilly** in the shadows.

Joe Simpson, Touching the Void

rather cold

unfriendly

I thought he was **dead**. He was sitting with his legs stretched out and his head tipped back against the wall.

David Almond, Skellig

no longer alive

exact or precise

Except for one **lousy** F in a class that will be of no use to me whatsoever in my future life, I'm doing pretty well.

Meg Cabot, The Princess Diaries

full of lice

very bad or unpleasant

Three deep **parallel** grooves of skin appeared upon George's low sloping forehead.

Roald Dahl, Vengeance Is Mine Inc

similar or corresponding

side by side and the same distance apart

Harry...went to the apothecary to **replenish** his store of Potions' ingredients.

J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

to fill up a supply that has been depleted

to fill someone with energy or food that they need

7 How many did you get right?

2 = NOVICE

5 = EXPERT

10 = MAESTRO

7

i You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities