

Vocabulary Instructional Routine: Multiple Meaning Words in Context

Preparation/Materials: One multiple meaning word (e.g., shoulder), sentences, definition cards, chart paper or white board, a picture that demonstrates each meaning of the word (if available), highlighter or marker

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- *Italicized type is what the teacher does*
- **Bold type is what the teacher says**
- Regular type is what the student(s) say
- **Bullet (•) and bolded type are what the teacher and student(s) say in unison**
- Teacher or student slides finger under the underlined letter(s) or word(s)

TEACHER EXPLAINS TASK

We will use context clues to identify the correct meaning of a word in sentences. A context clue is like a hint that the author gives us to figure out the meaning of the word.

TEACHER MODELS TASK

Display word card or write shoulder on the chart paper or a white board.

This is the word shoulder. Say shoulder.

- shoulder

You may already know a meaning for the word shoulder. Let's describe a shoulder. *Accept all relevant answers that describe one definition of shoulder (e.g., part of the body). Create and write a student-friendly definition on the chart paper or white board (e.g. A shoulder is part of the body between the arm and neck). Read the definition aloud.*

A shoulder is part of your body between the arm and neck. *Display definition card.*

Listen to this sentence. *Display the sentence and point to the words in the sentence as you read aloud.*

When Todd injured his arm playing baseball, his doctor put a cast up to his shoulder to support the bones that were bruised.

To figure out the meaning of 'shoulder', I ask myself what is happening in the sentence. The sentence tells me that Todd had his injured arm and it is in a cast.

Then I ask, what words or phrases give me hints about the meaning of shoulder?

Highlight or underline the words or phrases that provide hints as you speak about them.

The words 'injured his arm' and 'a cast up to his shoulder' give me a hint that the sentence is about a body. The meaning of shoulder, in this sentence, is a part of the body between the arm and the neck.

I used context clues to identify the correct meaning of shoulder.

TEACHER & STUDENTS PRACTICE TASK TOGETHER

Now, let's learn another meaning for the word shoulder.

Shoulder can also mean to take on. *Display definition card. Listen to this sentence using this meaning of shoulder. Display the sentence and point to the words as you read aloud.*

Sally agreed to shoulder a lot of work now that her family has a new puppy.

Let's read the sentence together. *Point to the words as you choral read with students.*

- **Sally agreed to shoulder a lot of work now that her family has a new puppy.**

To figure out the meaning of 'shoulder', I ask myself what is happening in the sentence.

Sally has more work with a new puppy.

Then I ask, what words give me hints about the meaning of shoulder?

Highlight or underline the words or phrases that provide hints as you speak about them.

The words, 'a lot of work' and 'agreed to' give me a hint that Sally is willing to care for the puppy.

The words, taking on and agreed to, mean the same as the word shoulder.

Can you think of a time when you have had to shoulder a lot of work or responsibility? *Accept all relevant answers and limit discussion to two minutes.*

Listen to this sentence. Display the sentence and point to the words as you read aloud.

Sid and Lia helped the older man clean up his yard after the storm so he did not have to shoulder all of the yard work.

Now, let's read the sentence together. Point to the words as you choral read with students.

- **Sid and Lia agreed to help the older man clean up his yard after the storm so he did not have to shoulder all of the hard work by himself.**

In this sentence Sid and Lia help an older man so he doesn't have to do all his yard.

What is happening in this sentence?

- Sid and Lia help an older man so he doesn't have to do all his yard.

What words give us hints about the meaning of the word shoulder? *Accept and highlight or underline all relevant words in the sentence or write other answers that students can justify (e.g., all the work by himself).*

So, the meaning of shoulder in this sentence is, to take on or carry.

What is the meaning of shoulder in the sentence?

- to take on or carry

Shoulder can also mean a part of your body between your arm and your neck. What is another meaning of shoulder?

- a part of your body between the arm and neck

Now that we know two different meanings for shoulder, we can use context clues to figure out the correct meaning for the word in a sentence.

What do context clues help us to figure out?

- They help us to figure out the correct meaning for the word.

Listen and follow along as I read this sentence. Display sentence and point to the words as you read aloud.

The muscles in my arm, near my shoulder, ached because I fell off my bike.

Now, let's read the sentence together.

- **The muscles in my arm, near my shoulder ached because I fell off my bike. In the sentence, the person's shoulder aches.**

What is happening in this sentence?

- The person's shoulder aches.

What words give us hints about the meaning of the word shoulder? *Accept and highlight or underline all relevant words in the sentence or write other answers that students can justify (e.g., muscles in my arm).*

The meaning of shoulder, in this sentence, is a part of your body between your arm and your neck. What is the meaning of shoulder in this sentence?

- a part of the body between the arm and neck

Great work using context clues to identify the correct meaning of the word shoulder.

STUDENTS PRACTICE TASK

Remember, the word **shoulder** has more than one meaning.

Shoulder can mean to take on. **Shoulder** can also mean a part of the body between the arm and neck.

Now, let's learn another meaning for the word **shoulder**.

Shoulder can also mean the edge of a road. *Display definition card.*

Listen to this sentence using this meaning of **shoulder**. *Display sentence and point to the words as you read aloud.*

On the busy road my mom pulled the car over onto the bumpy shoulder when we had a flat tire.

Now, let's read the sentence together.

- **On the busy road my mom pulled the car over onto the bumpy shoulder when we had a flat tire.**

To figure out the meaning of 'shoulder', we ask, what is happening in this sentence.

The mom pulled the car over on the side of the road.

What is happening in this sentence?

The mom pulled the car over on the side of the road.

What words give us hints about the meaning of the word **shoulder**? *Accept and highlight or underline all relevant words in the sentence or write other answers that students can justify (e.g., on the road, pulled the car over).*

Let's talk about the shoulder of the road. Let's describe what it looks like. *Accept all relevant answers and limit discussion to two minutes.*

Now listen to these phrases and say the correct definition of **shoulder**. Say '**to take on**' or '**part of your body**', or '**the edge of the road**'. *Display definition cards.*

my shoulder hurts

part of your body

shoulder the work of building a house

to take on

ride a bike on the shoulder

the edge of the road

Wow. You know three meanings of the word **shoulder.**

The following vocabulary activities have not been modeled in the Teacher Models Task or Teacher and Students Practice Task sections. Provide an opportunity for all students to answer each question. Accept all relevant answers. If available, display pictures to support the understanding of the multiple meanings.

Now it is your turn to work with the word **shoulder**. Answer these questions.

What might a tow truck driver say if you were pulled over on the **shoulder**?

What might a new president say about having to **shoulder** so many decisions?

What might a man say about how he hurt his **shoulder**?

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

When students are consistently able to determine which meaning of the multiple meaning word is used, provide individual turns using other multiple meaning words. Call on students in an unpredictable order, calling more frequently on students who made errors.

SCAFFOLDING SUGGESTION FOR ERRORS

Verify that students are correctly identifying the meaning of the multiple meaning word in context and are able to use those multiple meaning words appropriately. If students experience difficulty with this concept, consider using the Second Grade Vocabulary Instructional Routine: Multiple Meaning Words in Context.

Adaptations using this Instructional Routine:

- *Use multiple meaning words that are related to each other to draw attention to the features of the words (e.g., brace, bolt).*
- *Have students create a story that incorporates a multiple meaning word using three definitions. Provide an intriguing story prompt if needed (e.g., Many years ago, a young man was driving....).*

Below are links to FCRR Student Center Activities which provide additional independent practice for this skill.

- [V.032 Multiple Meaning Match](#)
- [V.033 Meaning Exchange](#)

shoulder

to take on

part of your body between the
arm and neck

the edge of the road

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