

1.3 Have you ever seen...?

■ ■ ■ Warming up! ■ ■ ■

1. Words that have the same spelling, but differ in meaning when used in different contexts are called **homographs**. For example,

(a) A temple fair attracts a lot of crowd.

Her performance in the test was fair.

(b) A rose is the king of flowers.

The sun rose with a golden glow.

- Think of 5 homographs and list them below. Then write 2 sentences of your own, to bring out the difference in meanings.

Homograph	Sentences
(1)	(a) (b)
(2)	(a) (b)
(3)	(a) (b)
(4)	(a) (b)
(5)	(a) (b)

2. When words with the same spelling or pronunciation are used in such a way that they convey **more than one meaning**, the figure of speech involved is called **pun**.

A pun is a play upon words. For example,

A : Hello! How's life?

B : Hell, O! It's a strife.

Find other examples of pun with the help of your parents/teacher.

(1) (3)

(2) (4)

3. In poetry, when a question is asked, not to get an answer, but to emphasise a point or fact, it is an example of **Interrogation**.

For example : • When can their glory fade? • Isn't it time for the autumn's glow?

From a popular book of poems/the internet, write down 3-4 examples of Interrogation used in poetry.

(1) (3)

(2) (4)

Have you ever seen...?

Have you ever seen a sheet on a river bed?
 Or a single hair from a hammer's head?
 Has the foot of a mountain any toes?
 And is there a pair of garden hose?
 Does the needle ever wink its eye?
 Why doesn't the wing of a building fly?
 Can you tickle the ribs of a parasol?
 Or open the trunk of a tree at all?
 Are the teeth of a rake ever going to bite?
 Have the hands of a clock any left or right?
 Can the garden plot be deep and dark?
 And what is the sound of the birch's bark?

- Anonymous

- hose : 1. a flexible tube 2. a pair of stockings or tights.
- parasol : umbrella
- plot : The word plot is also used to mean 'an evil or wicked plan'.
- birch : a tree

■■■ ENGLISH WORKSHOP ■■■■■■

1. From each line in the poem, pick out the word that is a homograph. Write its meaning in the context of the phrase used in the poem. Then write the other meaning implied in the question.

Stanza	Word	One meaning		Other meaning
First	(1) bed	piece of furniture	→	bottom of river, sea, etc.
	(2)		→	
	(3)		→	
	(4)		→	
Second	(1)		→	
	(2)		→	
	(3)		→	
	(4)		→	
Third	(1)		→	
	(2)		→	
	(3)		→	
	(4)		→	

2. Write 2 lines from this poem which you find most humorous. Justify your choice.

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3. Find from the poem, three examples of each :

(a) Interrogation

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

(b) Pun

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)



(c) Personification

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

(d) Alliteration

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

4. Form groups of four or five. Think, discuss and add at least one more stanza, using the same style and devices as the poet has used. It should include homographs, interrogation and the same rhythm and rhyme-scheme.

Have/Does/Are

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5. Read the following sentences carefully. Then fill in the blanks using appropriate words from the brackets, to make puns.

(struck, numbered, too tired, developed, put down, homeless, old fashioned, reaction)

- (1) She had a photographic memory but never it.
- (2) He was struggling to figure out how lightning works when it him.
- (3) Every calendar's days are
- (4) A bicycle cannot stand on its own because it is
- (5) I'm reading a book on anti-gravity. It's impossible to the book .
- (6) I'd tell you a chemistry joke but I know I wouldn't get a
- (7) What do you call Watson when Sherlock isn't around?
- (8) I would tell a history joke, but it's too

6. **Read** : 'Alice in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll.

