

Lesson Plan

Many Meanings

Book: *Football Records*

Series: Sports Records

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students explore how one word can have several different meanings and how those meanings depend on the context in which it is used.

Supplies

- *Football Records* book
- Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary:
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>
- Whiteboard
- Pencils and paper

Before the Activity

Read *Football Records* out loud as a class.

Activity

Sometimes, one word can have several different meanings, depending on how it is used. For example, football fans use the word *active* to refer to a player who is still playing in a league. However, that same word is also used to describe a person who gets lots of exercise or a volcano that is able to erupt.

Write four words on the whiteboard: *career*, *defense*, *comeback*, and *rush*. Explain that these words also have various meanings. Students should look these words up in both the *Football Records* glossary and the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. For each word, students should write down the following information on a piece of paper:

- the word
- the word's definition in terms of football
- another meaning the word can have
- a sentence using the football definition
- a sentence using the other definition

Evaluation

Collect the papers and use the sample answers to award 6 points for each word:

- 1 point for the football definition
- 1 point for the other meaning
- 2 points for using the word correctly in a sentence about football
- 2 points for using the word's other meaning correctly in a sentence

Sample Answers

Career

- In football, a career is the total amount of time that an athlete plays the sport.
- *Career* can also mean “a profession for which one trains and which is undertaken as a permanent calling.”
- Football sentence: Kicker Morten Anderson’s career was from 1982 to 2007.
- Other sentence: Hassan hopes to have a career as an astronaut for NASA.

Defense

- In football, defense describes the group of players who try to stop the other team from scoring.
- *Defense* can also mean “the capability of resisting attack.”
- Football sentence: The team’s defense never let the other team score.
- Other sentence: The castle’s moat provided defense against attacking armies.

Comeback

- In football, a comeback is a situation where a team is losing but ends up winning the game.
- A *comeback* can also be “a sharp or witty reply.”
- Football sentence: The Patriots made the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history in 2017.
- Other sentence: My brother can think of a funny comeback for anything I say.

Rush

- In football, rushing is moving with the ball during a game.
- *Rush* can also mean “to proceed or move quickly.”
- Football sentence: Eric Dickerson set the single-season record for rushing yards.
- Other sentence: Vijay had to rush out the door to get to the bus on time.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ language standards, grade 3 (L 3.4).