Lesson 21
Homographs

L.5.5c: Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., . . . homographs) to better understand each of the words.

Introduction **Homographs** are words that have the same spelling but different meanings. Sometimes homographs have different pronunciations from one another.

- The word *wind* is a homograph.

> A brisk wind blew, so I buttoned my coat.
>
> Then I began to wind my way down the hill to the village.

- You can use a dictionary to check the meaning and pronunciation of homographs. Each homograph is a separate entry in the dictionary.

Each homograph has a raised number after the entry word.

wind[1] (wĭnd) *n.* **1.** moving air **2.** breath, or breathing

wind[2] (wīnd) *v.* **1.** to go along a twisty path **2.** to wrap something around another object

The homograph's pronunciation is in parentheses after the entry word.

- To find the right meaning of a homograph, read the definitions for each entry. Then see which meaning makes sense in the sentence you are reading.

Guided Practice **Read the passage. Find each underlined homograph in a dictionary. With a partner, figure out how to pronounce it. Then write a short definition above each word.**

HINT Homographs are spelled the same but are not necessarily pronounced the same.

The village was a perfect place to loaf for a few hours. I bought a fresh loaf of bread at a bakery near the beach. A dove was eating crumbs on the sidewalk. Across the street, a sea gull dove for food as I watched. Then I bought a present for my mom at a store. I planned to present it to her tonight at dinner. An old wound in my leg began to ache. So, I wound my way slowly along the streets.

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Independent Practice

For numbers 1–5, choose the correct meaning of the underlined word as it is used in the sentence.

1 I wandered down to the port to watch cargoes being unloaded from boats.

A **port**[1] (pôrt) *n.* a harbor

B **port**[2] (pôrt) *n.* the left on a ship

C **port**[3] (pôrt) *n.* a valve, or opening that lets liquid out

D **port**[4] (pôrt) *n.* a person's manner, or bearing

2 "Your ship looks sound," I said to a fisherman.

A **sound**[1] (sound) *n.* a noise

B **sound**[2] (sound) *adj.* in good shape

C **sound**[3] (sound) *n.* a long, wide body of water

D **sound**[4] (sound) *v.* to measure how deep water is

3 "It has to be," he said. "Tomorrow we're bound for the fishing lanes."

A **bound**[1] (bound) *v.* to leap or jump forward

B **bound**[2] (bound) *n.* border

C **bound**[3] (bound) *adj.* tied

D **bound**[4] (bound) *adj.* on the way to a particular place

4 "High winds and fierce storms are sure to batter us on the open seas," he continued.

A **batter**[1] ('batər) *v.* to hit, pound

B **batter**[2] ('batər) *n.* a player at bat

C **batter**[3] ('batər) *n.* a liquid mixture, often of flour, eggs, and milk

D **batter**[4] ('batər) *n.* a sloping structure

5 "Fortunately, our bow is sturdy and true," he finished.

A **bow**[1] (bou) *v.* to bend the head or upper body in greeting

B **bow**[2] (bou) *v.* to be pushed over with age or pressure

C **bow**[3] (bou) *n.* the front of a ship's hull

D **bow**[4] (bo) *n.* a weapon for shooting arrows

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