

Contronyms

Bolt

- a) Bolt can mean to lock or fasten something.

Example: I bolted the door before I went to bed.

- b) Bolt can also mean to move suddenly and quickly.

Example: The man bolted out of the room when he saw the big snake.

Bound

- a) Bound can mean having a duty to do something.

Example: The contract means you are bound to pay \$10 every month.

- b) Bound can also mean traveling towards a particular place.

Example: The man was on a bus bound for London.

Clip

- a) Clip can mean to cut small pieces from something.

Example: He used the scissors to clip his hair.

- b) Clip can also mean to fasten things together.

Example: Why don't you use this to clip the pieces of paper together?

Consult

- a) Consult can mean to go to someone and ask for advice.

Example: If you want more information about your account, you should consult with the bank manager.

- b) Consult can also mean to offer advice.

Example: You should consult with me before making a decision.

Custom

- a) A custom can be a common tradition or a habit.

Example: There is a custom in Japan of taking your shoes off when entering a house.

- b) Custom can also be used before another word to mean something specially designed.

Example: He had his racing bicycle custom-made for the race.

Dust

- a) The verb dust can mean to remove dust from something.

Example: I tidied and dusted my room.

- b) To dust can also mean to add fine particles to something.

Example: She dusted the cake with icing sugar.

Fast

- a) Fast can mean to move or happen quickly.

Example: The fast train to Manchester only takes 30 minutes.

- b) Fast can also mean firmly fixed.

Example: The little boy tried to run away but his mother held him fast.

Finished

- a) Finished can mean completed.

Example: I have just finished my homework.

- b) Finished can also mean completely destroyed.

Example: His career is finished after that mistake.

Flog

- a) To flog means to beat someone or something very hard.

Example: It was awful how he flogged his horse.

- b) To flog can also mean to sell something especially quickly and cheaply.

Example: That man on the market is flogging everything at half price.

Garnish

- a) Garnish can mean to decorate or add especially with food.

Example: Garnish the dish with basil before serving.

- b) Garnish can also mean to take away someone's wages or money.

Example: The court garnished the man's wages for not paying child support.

Help

- a) To help someone usually means to assist them.

Example: Can you help me with my homework?

- b) Help can also mean to avoid or refrain from doing something.

Example: He can't help doing it.

Hold up

- a) To hold up something can mean to support it.

Example: Let's use this box to hold up the broken chair.

- b) A hold up can also mean a delay or being impeded.

Example: Why are we waiting? What is the hold up?

Left

- a) Left can mean to have departed or gone away from someone or something.

Example: He left the building 10 minutes ago.

- b) Left can also mean remained.

Example: I was the only guy left at the party.

Mean

- a) Mean can be not generous and not willing to share things, especially money.

Example: My son is so mean to his sister. He will never let her play with his toys.

- b) Mean can also be excellent.

Example: That was a mean performance by my football team.

- c) Mean can also be average.

Example: The mean age of the group was 32 years old.

Model

- a) A model can be something that is extremely good.

Example: The educational system was a model for other countries.

- b) A model can be something that represents or copies another thing.

Example: By looking at this model you can get a better understanding of how the building will look.