

Literal meaning refers to words that mean **exactly** what they say.

Non-literal meaning refers to **words that do not mean what they say**.

► The meaning can often be determined by using **context clues**.

Literal Meaning	Non-literal Meaning
The chef liked to put a pickle in every sandwich.	The chef mixed up two orders, and now he was in a pickle with his customers.
The dentist filled the cavity in my tooth .	Mary had two pieces of cake to satisfy her sweet tooth .

CFU

Which sentence uses the non-literal meaning? Explain.

A The funny movie had us in stitches.

B I had to get stitches when I cut my finger on a bottle.

What is the difference between non-literal and literal meaning?

1. Read the sentences and identify the non-literal words. (underline)
2. Identify context clues that help explain the meaning. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the non-literal words. (box)

1 Sam couldn't decide whether to play soccer on Saturday or watch his favorite TV show. He told his friend, "I'll sleep on it."

- A Sam was tired.
- B Sam liked to sleep more than playing soccer.
- C Sam needed more time to make his decision.
- D Sam liked to lie on a pillow while watching TV.

2 Jim always cuts corners on his chores by not cleaning up afterwards.

- A Jim likes to not rake the edges of the yard.
- B Jim doesn't wash the corners of the counter.
- C Jim skips some steps in his chores.
- D Jim only mows the main yard and not the corners.

1. Read the sentences and identify the non-literal words. (underline)
2. Identify context clues that help explain the meaning. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the non-literal words. (box)

3 Alicia started building a 100-piece jigsaw puzzle, but after an hour, she felt she had bitten off more than she could chew.

- A Alicia likes to eat puzzle pieces for snacks.
- B The puzzle took too much time.
- C Some puzzle pieces were chewed by her dog.
- D Alicia got hungry and couldn't finish the puzzle.

4 Our teacher is on the ball, and we always get our test results the next day.

- A The teacher has a round ball chair.
- B The teacher gets things done quickly.
- C The teacher likes to watch baseball after school.
- D The teacher keeps a box of sport balls in the classroom.

Skill Closure

1. Read the sentences and identify the non-literal words. (underline)
2. Identify context clues that help explain the meaning. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the non-literal words. (box)

- 1 The basketball player was so tall that his legs were like a pair of chopsticks.
- A He doesn't like to eat food with a fork.
 - B His toes were sharp like the end of a chopstick.
 - C The tallest basketball player is made of chopsticks.
 - D His legs were very skinny.

Concept Closure

Read the text. Explain why you agree or disagree.

Amy and Bob had to tell Rita that she couldn't come with them to the beach because the car was full, but they didn't know how to break the ice.

Randy says that Amy and Bob are going to give Rita a nice ice cold drink. Do you agree or disagree with him?



Summary Closure

What did you learn today about distinguishing literal from non-literal language?

Word Bank

- distinguish
- literal meaning
- non-literal meaning
- context clues

1. Read the sentences and identify the non-literal words. (underline)
2. Identify context clues that help explain the meaning. (box)
3. Determine the meaning of the non-literal words. (box)

1 Della's beautiful hair fell about her shoulders, rippling and shining like a waterfall.

- A Her hair was made of water.
- B Her hair was wet from washing it.
- C Her hair was curly and looked like waves.
- D Her hair was shiny like sun reflecting on water.

2 The bright star was like a diamond in the sky.

- A The star had a lot of rich jewels on it.
- B The star had a ring around it like a diamond bracelet.
- C The star twinkled in the sky like light on a diamond.
- D The star was so far away that it made me think I was far away from ever getting a diamond.



Listening

Listen to the sentence. Use context clues to determine what the non-literal words mean. **Box** the meaning.

	Non-Literal Words	Meaning of Non-literal Language
1	Hands like magnets	A. Hands have metal gloves. B. Hands like to throw a pass. C. Hands can catch anything. D. Hands can push or pull away.
2	Buzzes like a beehive	A. They make a lot of noise. B. They yell like being stung. C. They think points are like honey. D. They sound like angry bees.

Read the passage. Determine the meaning of the non-literal words or phrase.

- 3 The art teacher told the students that their drawings were like a picture worth **1,000 words**.
- A Their drawings were beautiful.
 - B Their drawings needed to have 1,000 words.
 - C Their drawings were easier to understand than reading 1,000 words.
 - D Their drawings were worth a lot of money.



Reading

Read the sentences. Determine the meaning of the non-literal words or phrase.

- 1 Mom called the school because Josh had a cold and fever. She said he was **under the weather**.
- A She meant he couldn't go outside.
 - B She meant that he got sick due to the weather.
 - C She meant that the weather was too cold.
 - D She meant that he needed to use an umbrella.

Write a sentence using the non-literal words or phrases.

- 2 **Cold feet** means not able to go forward.

- 3 **Cold shoulder** means to turn away or not pay attention to someone.

 Writing

Read the passage. Answer the question.

- 1 Because Traci was sick, it was **up in the air** whether the family would go to the beach or not.

Why is the decision to go referred to as “up in the air”?

Read the passage. Answer the questions.

Having to study for the test on a weekend was a real **pain in the neck**. But when the teacher canceled the test, it was **music to my ears**.

- 2 Determine the meaning of **pain in the neck**.

- 3 Determine the meaning of **music to my ears**.
