



Words with different meanings

Using a dictionary to look up words that have several meanings

This word has four
different meanings.

crash /kræʃ/ noun ★

- 1 an accident that happens when a vehicle hits something
- 2 a loud noise like the sound of things hitting each other and breaking
- 3 a sudden fall in prices or in the value of the stock market
- 4 an occasion when a computer or a computer program suddenly stops working

How to understand words with different meanings

- Check the part of speech you need.
- Read all the meanings, but remember the most common is first.
- Identify the meaning that could be the one you need.
- Read any examples and check that the meaning is the same.

Think

How many meanings does this word have?

Which meaning do I want?

Does the example show the meaning I want?

Practice

Look again at the dictionary definition. Then write the number of the correct meaning of *crash* in these sentences.

- a There was a loud crash from the kitchen. _____
- b The crash in house prices was a complete surprise. _____
- c Every time I open a document, it crashes. _____
- d It was the worst train crash in 30 years. _____