Literal and Nonliteral Language

Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer, or write your answer on the lines.

1. What does “the ball is in your court” mean? “I gave you two ideas. Now the ball is in your court.”

   It is your turn to decide. The ball rolled to you. You need to find the ball.

   The game is over.

2. What does “once in a blue moon” mean? “We eat at that restaurant once in a blue moon.”

   very rarely only when the moon is blue every night every week

3. What does “hit the nail on the head” mean? “Priya hit the nail on the head when she named the problem.”

   She used a hammer. She hurt her head. She was totally wrong.

   She was exactly right.

4. What does “a sweet tooth” mean? “Grandpa has a sweet tooth and loves cookies.”

   He brushes his teeth a lot.

   He loves sweet foods.

   He has a sugary tooth.

   He just lost a tooth.

5. What does “see eye to eye” mean? “Ben and his sister do not see eye to eye about pets.”

   They cannot see well.

   They do not look at each other.

   They do not agree.

   They both love pets.

6. Which sentence is nonliteral?

The classroom was a zoo after the party.

The classroom had a fish tank.

The class visited a zoo after the party.

The classroom was loud after the party.

7. Which words help show what “down in the dumps” means? “Ella was down in the dumps and cried after her team lost.”

in the Ella was cried after her team lost team

8. What does “bite off more than you can chew” mean? “Lily bit off more than she could chew when she joined four clubs.”

She ate a huge bite.

She took on too much to do.

She did not like the clubs.

She joined the wrong club.

9. Which sentence is literal?

The baby was the apple of Mom's eye.

The baby slept in her crib.

The baby was a little angel.

The baby cried her eyes out.

10. Rewrite the sentence with an idiom that means telling a secret. Then tell what it means. Draft: Mia told everyone about the surprise.

Scan to get this marked free. No screen time for your child.
Print it · do it in pencil · scan it · PencilGo picks the next sheet.

Literal and Nonliteral Language

Answer Key - Grade 3 Grammar Worksheet

Circle the answer, or write your answer on the lines.

1. What does “the ball is in your court” mean? “I gave you two ideas. Now the ball is in your court.”

   It is your turn to decide. The ball rolled to you. You need to find the ball.

   The game is over.

2. What does “once in a blue moon” mean? “We eat at that restaurant once in a blue moon.”

   very rarely only when the moon is blue every night every week

3. What does “hit the nail on the head” mean? “Priya hit the nail on the head when she named the problem.”

   She used a hammer. She hurt her head. She was totally wrong.

   She was exactly right.

4. What does “a sweet tooth” mean? “Grandpa has a sweet tooth and loves cookies.”

   He brushes his teeth a lot.

   He loves sweet foods.

   He has a sugary tooth.

   He just lost a tooth.

5. What does “see eye to eye” mean? “Ben and his sister do not see eye to eye about pets.”

   They cannot see well.

   They do not look at each other.

   They do not agree.

   They both love pets.

6. Which sentence is nonliteral?

The classroom was a zoo after the party.

The classroom had a fish tank.

The class visited a zoo after the party.

The classroom was loud after the party.

7. Which words help show what “down in the dumps” means? “Ella was down in the dumps and cried after her team lost.”

in the Ella was cried after her team lost team

8. What does “bite off more than you can chew” mean? “Lily bit off more than she could chew when she joined four clubs.”

She ate a huge bite.

She took on too much to do.

She did not like the clubs.

She joined the wrong club.

9. Which sentence is literal?

The baby was the apple of Mom's eye.

The baby slept in her crib.

The baby was a little angel.

The baby cried her eyes out.

10. Rewrite the sentence with an idiom that means telling a secret. Then tell what it means. Draft: Mia told everyone about the surprise.

Example: Mia spilled the beans about the surprise. It means she told the secret.