

The Word Trap Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. **Term** - a length of time / an academic session; misunderstanding could change the move-out date.
2. **Cell** - a biological unit / a storage chamber; could affect experimental setup or results.
3. **Bat** - an animal / a sports tool; could alter the meaning of the witness's testimony.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Strengthens awareness of how **homonyms impact clarity** in formal writing-especially in **law, science, and technical fields**-teaching students to analyze meaning in professional contexts.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For younger or early middle-grade students, simplify passages or define the context first.
 - For high school or advanced learners, add real-world excerpts from legal or scientific texts to analyze.
- **Engagement Idea:** Host a "Word Court." Assign roles (lawyer, judge, witness) and debate which meaning fits best based on context.
- **Extension Activity:**
 - Have students find examples of ambiguous wording in real documents (school rules, user manuals, etc.) and rewrite them for clarity.
 - Encourage writing their own "Homonym Clause" - a made-up legal or scientific line that could be hilariously misinterpreted without proper wording.