Lexical Confusion Unit

Directions: Read each short real-world case where a *multiple-meaning word* caused misunderstanding. Then, identify the word, explain both meanings, describe what went wrong, and suggest how it could have been clarified.

Case 1: The Legal Loophole

A contract stated that a delivery company must transport goods "by **ship**." The client assumed this included all maritime vessels, but the company argued that "ship" only referred to *cargo ships*, not *smaller boats or ferries.* The dispute went to court over one missing shipment.

Word: _____

Meaning 1: _____

Meaning 2: _____

What went wrong: _____

Clarify it by writing a clearer version: _____

Case 3: The Media Mix-Up

A headline read: "Local **bank** collapses under pressure." Readers feared a financial crisis, but the story was actually about the **riverbank** eroding during a storm.

Word: _____

Meaning 1: _____

Meaning 2: _____

What went wrong: _____

Clarify it by writing a clearer version: _____

Case 5: The Courtroom Comedy

During testimony, a lawyer asked a witness, "Did you **see** the defendant *leave* the scene?" The witness replied, "I saw him **leave**, but I didn't see him **leave**." The courtroom erupted in confusion until the witness explained he saw the man *standing up to go*, but not *driving away*.

Word: _____

Meaning 1: _____

Meaning 2: _____

What went wrong: _____

Clarify it by writing a clearer version: _____