

CHAPTER 4

The Semantics of Words (2)

A- Homonyms

1- They are two or more words having different and unrelated meanings but the **same spelling** and /or the **same pronunciation**.

Examples:

Bat خُفَاش

Bat البيسبول مضرب

2- We have three types of Homonyms and they are:

A- Homographs OR (HETERONYMS)

They are words that have **different meanings** and **different pronunciations** but the **same spelling**.

Examples:

Tear ما شيئاً يُمزق

Tear الدموع

The word (Row) may mean:

- The number of people or things in a more or less straight line.
- A line of seats in a theater.
- To cause a boat to move through the water by pushing against the water with oars.

B- **Homophones**: they are words that have **different meanings** and **different spellings** but the **same pronunciation**.

Examples:

1- See الرؤية

sea البحر

2- Hear السمع

here هُنا

3- For لأجل

four أربعة الرقم

Another example: the words (two + to + too)

C- Third Type of Homonyms: Same Spelling / Same Pronunciation / Different Meaning

Examples:

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1- Leaves | اوراق الاشجار | Leaves | يُغادر |
| 2- Bar | المكان الذي يتم فيه تقديم المشروبات | bar | لوح شكلاتة |
| 3- Bank | ضفة النهر | Bank | مصرف |
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B- POLYSEMY

1- It is a word or phrase with multiple, related meanings.

Examples:

The word (Man)

1. The human species (i.e., man vs. other organisms)
2. Males of the human species (i.e., man vs. woman)
3. Adult males of the human species (i.e., man vs. boy)
4. (As a verb) to operate or constitute a vehicle or machine (To man a ship)

The word (Bank)

1. A financial institution
2. The physical building where a financial institution offers services
3. To deposit money or have an account in a bank (e.g. "I bank at the local credit union")

4. A supply of something held in reserve: such as "banking" brownie points
5. A synonym for 'rely upon' (e.g. "I'm your friend, you can bank on me").

C- Polysemy VS Homonymy

Polysemy	Homonymy
Definition: Polysemy is the existence of many possible meanings for a word or phrase.	Definition: Homonymy is the existence of two or more words having the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings and origins.
Meanings: Polysemy has different, yet related meanings.	Meanings: Homonymy has completely different meanings.
Origins: Polysemy has related word origins	Origins: Homonymy has different origins.
Dictionaries: polysemous words are listed under one entry in dictionaries.	Dictionaries: homonymous words are listed separately.
Guessing the Meaning: polysemous words can be understood if you know the meaning of one word.	Guessing the Meaning: the meaning of homonymous words cannot be guessed since the words have unrelated meanings.