Idioms, homophones, riddles and proverbs

Name:

**homophones:** Sound-alike words – they sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings e.g. flower/flour

**homonyms:** Multiple meaning words – they are spelt the same but have a different meaning depending on the sentence.

**riddles:** A riddle is a statement or a question with a hidden meaning that forms a puzzle to be solved.

**proverbs:** They are short popular sayings expressing a belief that is generally thought to be true.

**idioms:** These are expressions we use in everyday speech and are an example of figurative language e.g. to smell a rat. Idioms cannot be understood from the meaning of the words.

1. Write the meanings of the following idioms in your own words:
   a) To grow suspicious: ________________________________
   b) to blow one’s own trumpet: ________________________________
   c) to hit the nail on the head: ________________________________
   d) to put the cart before the horse: ________________________________

2. Fill in what you think is missing from these proverbs.
   a) ________________________________flock together.
   b) Too many cooks ________________________________.
   c) ________________________________speak louder than words.
   d) Every cloud ________________________________.

3. Write sentence with these homophones showing their difference.
   a) mail/male ________________________________
   b) see/sea ________________________________
4. Write sentences showing two meanings of these homonyms:
   a) suit/suit ____________________________________________________________
   b) lean/lean _________________________________________________________

5. Look at these two riddles and then see if you can write your own on a separate piece of paper.

   What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?
   
   **Answer: a clock**

   I have streets but no pavement,
   I have cities but no buildings,
   I have forests but no trees,
   I have rivers yet no water.
   What am I?
   
   **Answer: a map**
1. Write the meanings of the following idioms in your own words:
   a) To grow suspicious: This means that one starts to have some doubts and questions about something being not what it is supposed to be.
   b) To blow one’s own trumpet: This means that one praises oneself instead of allowing others to give the needed praise.
   c) To hit the nail on the head: This means that the real reason for something being what it is has been uncovered.
   d) To put the cart before the horse: This means that one goes about doing things in the wrong order.

2. Fill in what you think is missing from these proverbs.
   a) Birds of a feather flock together.
   b) Too many cooks spoil the broth.
   c) Actions speak louder than words.
   d) Every cloud has a silver lining.

3. Write sentence with these homophones showing their difference.
   a) mail/male. Learners own choice distinguishing between post (mail) and male gender.
   b) see/sea. Learners own choice distinguishing between sight and sea water.

4. Write sentences showing two meanings of these homonyms:
   a) suit/suit. Learners own choice distinguishing between the verb suit (be convenient for or acceptable to) and the noun suit for a suit of clothes.
   b) lean/lean. Learners own choice distinguishing between the verb lean (be in or move into a sloping position) and the noun lean (slim, slender).

5. Look at these two riddles and then see if you can write your own on a separate piece of paper.
   A Riddle is a light-hearted type of poem that describes something without actually naming what it is, leaving the reader to guess.
   Learner’s own choice.