Let's learn

LITERAL VS NONLITERAL LANGUAGE

Nonliteral language is when words or phrases don't mean exactly what they say.

for example:

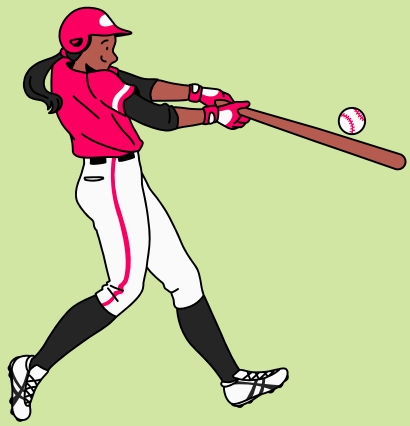
"hit the ball out of the park"

can mean

LITERAL: REAL

"**hit the ball out of the park**" can mean someone *literally* (really) hit a baseball very far.

Diego **hit the ball out of the park** during the baseball game.



NONLITERAL: NOT REAL

"**hit the ball out of the park**" can also mean someone did an amazing job at something.

Maria **hit the ball out of the park** on her science project.

Maria did not *actually* hit her science project out of the park. But just like a home run is amazing in baseball, her science project was amazing work!



This resource aligns with Common Core Standard L.3.5.A, focusing on distinguishing literal from nonliteral meanings in context.

Name:

NONLITERAL LANGUAGE

Directions: Read the sentence. Choose the meaning of the underlined phrase.

The soccer player really **dropped the ball** during the big game.

A) He let go of the ball
B) He made a mistake
C) He kicked it too far
D) He stopped playing

When it comes to basketball, Mia is really **on fire**!

A) She is hot from running
B) She is playing very well
C) She is angry
D) She is sweating a lot

The coach said the team needed to **step up their game**.

A) Take bigger steps
B) Go to the next field
C) Play better
D) Stand up

The team was **down to the wire** in the final seconds of the match.

A) Playing near a wire
B) The game was close to ending
C) Jumping rope
D) Fixing something with a wire

The coach told Jenna to **keep her eye on the ball** during the game.

A) Watch the ball closely
B) Close her eyes
C) Look away
D) Sleep during the game

After winning the championship, the players were **on cloud nine**.

A) Flying in the sky
B) Very happy
C) Standing on a cloud
D) Counting clouds

HELPFUL TIPS:



- 💭 Think about the whole sentence. What's happening?
- 🔍 Ask yourself: Does that phrase really mean what it says?
- 🧩 Use clues around the phrase to figure it out.
- 📚 Think: Have I heard that saying before? What did it mean?

Name:

NONLITERAL LANGUAGE

Directions: Read each sentence. Then, choose the meaning of the underlined phrase.

During the race, Noah was **running out of steam**.

A) Losing energy
B) Getting hotter
C) Running faster
D) Making steam

The basketball game was a **slam dunk** for our school.

A) A type of basketball shot
B) An easy win
C) A loud noise
D) A dance move

Sophia decided to **throw in the towel** after the third round.

A) Clean up
B) Give up
C) Start over
D) Dry off

The team had to **think on their feet** when their play didn't go as planned.

A) Stand up straight
B) Run really fast
C) Make quick decisions
D) Dance around

Emma **hit it out of the park** with her gymnastics routine.

A) Threw something far
B) Did an excellent job
C) Left the park
D) Missed the ball

The new player is a real **team player**.

A) Someone who plays alone
B) Someone who works well with others
C) A coach
D) A referee

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