

## TEACHER'S NOTES

### phantonym

www.macmillandictionary.com



**Overview:** Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary *BuzzWord*** article on *phantonym* and the associated worksheets.

**Total time for worksheet activities:** 30 minutes

**Suggested level:** Intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *BuzzWord* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
3. Encourage the students to read through the Find the information questions before they look at the article. When they have completed the exercise, ask them to compare their answers with a partner.
4. In the Find the word exercise, make sure that the students know that the words in the exercise appear in the same order in which they appear in the text.
5. In Exercise 3 the students are being asked to identify the *original* meaning of each word. Encourage them to use the Macmillan Dictionary to complete this exercise. Check the answers as a class. Point out that *flammable* and *inflammable* mean exactly the same thing. Point out too that although *unsatisfied* can be used for both definitions, *dissatisfied* is the 'correct' word for definition a.
6. In Exercise 4, ask the students to complete the exercise and then discuss their answers with a partner. Check the answers as a class. Point out that in the word *pseudonym*, the initial letter *p* is silent. It is pronounced /'sju:ðənɪm/. Ask the students if they know any more examples of *acronyms* (common examples are AIDS – acquired immune deficiency syndrome; PR – public relations; NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization; VIP – very important person).
7. The Macmillan Dictionary will be needed when doing Exercise 5. Ask the students to compare their answers with a partner and then check the answers as a class.
8. As a winding-up activity, ask the students if they know any *false friends* – words in English which look similar to or the same as words in their native language but which have different meanings.

Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/phantonym.html>

### 1 Find the information

Read the *BuzzWord* article on *phantonym* and answer these questions.

1. What is a *phantonym*?
2. What is the meaning of the word *fulsome*?
3. What word should President Obama have used instead of *fulsome*?
4. What do most people think the word *noisome* means and what does it really mean?
5. The term *phantonym* is a blend of two other words. Which two words?
6. What is a *false friend*?

### 2 Find the word

Look in the text and find the following words. The first letters of the words are given.

1. a two-word phrasal verb meaning *to appear very quickly or suddenly*. p \_\_\_\_\_
2. a verb meaning *to guess that something is true, when you do not have enough information to prove that it is true*. s \_\_\_\_\_
3. an adjective meaning *fair in the way that you describe or treat a situation*. u \_\_\_\_\_
4. a verb meaning *to use a word or phrase that no one has used before*. c \_\_\_\_\_
5. a noun meaning *a book that contains lists of words that have similar meanings*. t \_\_\_\_\_
6. a noun meaning *a particular area of activity or life*. d \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Some common phantonyms

Here are some more phantonyms. In each case, decide which is the 'real' or original meaning of the word: a or b. Check in your dictionary, if necessary.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. enervated   | a. energized   |
|                | b. feeling tired and weak  |
| 2. restive     | a. unable to keep still  |
|                | b. relaxing, quiet and peaceful  |
| 3. penultimate | a. just before the last in a series                                      |
|                | b. the very last in a series   |
| 4. inflammable | a. not flammable   |
|                | b. burning easily  |
| 5. unsatisfied | a. annoyed because something is not as good as you expected it to be     |
|                | b. unhappy because you do not get what you want or you do not get enough |

WORKSHEET

**phantonym**

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**4 More -nyms**

Complete the definitions by choosing the correct word from the box.

acronym      antonym      homonym      pseudonym      synonym

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a word that is spelled the same or sounds the same as another word but has a different meaning.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a name that someone uses that is not their real name, especially for writing a book.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a word that has the same meaning as another word.
4. An \_\_\_\_\_ is an abbreviation consisting of letters that form a word. For example, *scuba* (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus).
5. An \_\_\_\_\_ is a word that means the opposite of another word.

**5 Word building: Blends**

The word *phantonym* is a blend – a word which uses the beginning of the first word and the ending of the second to form a new word. Use the words in the box to make six more blends. The words in the top row form the first part of each blend and the words in the bottom row form the second half. Check the spelling of the blends in the dictionary and then place them in the correct sentences.

breakfast	camera	fan	motor	smoke	stagnation
fog	hotel	inflation	lunch	magazine	recorder

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an economic situation in which prices rise continuously, unemployment is high, and many businesses are not making money.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a small camera used for recording pictures and sound.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a meal that is usually served in the late morning.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a magazine written for and by fans.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a hotel for people who are travelling by car.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is heavily polluted air that affects large industrial cities.



## KEY

### 1 Find the information

1. A word which looks like it means a particular thing but in fact means something different.
2. disgusting, excessive, insincere
3. full
4. Most people think it means *noisy* when, in fact, it means *dirty, smelly and unpleasant*.
5. *phantom* and *antonym*
6. A word that learners think has a particular meaning because it looks like a word in their own language.

### 2 Find the word

1. pop up
2. surmise
3. unbiased
4. coin
5. thesaurus
6. domain

### 3 Some common phantonyms

1. b
2. a
3. a
4. b
5. b

### 4 More -nyms

1. homonym
2. pseudonym
3. synonym
4. acronym
5. antonym

### 5 Word building: Blends

1. stagflation
2. camcorder
3. brunch
4. fanzine
5. motel
6. smog