



Polysemy



1 Check these expressions and match them with the pictures.

- a) watch a play ()
- b) play the guitar ()
- c) play a role ()
- d) play tennis ()
- e) press play ()
- f) play cards ()



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2 Now, pay attention to the word **play**. What does it mean in each expression from activity 1? Match them to the definitions below.

- () do activities for fun
- () participate in a game or sport
- () perform music on an instrument
- () act the part of a character in a film, play, etc.
- () a piece of writing that tells a story and is performed on a stage
- () a function that causes sounds or images to be heard or seen

In every language, there are words with multiple meanings. They are written and pronounced the same, but depending on the context they indicate different ideas. This is called **polysemy**.

3 Carry out research on other meanings of the word **play** and share them with your classmates. Think about which words would be used in Portuguese in each case.

4 Choose another word in English that has two or more meanings and present it to your classmates. Remember to include examples and definitions.
