

# Tricky Words of the Day

Monday, April 27, 2026

*Note: Illustrations appear only on meanings where a picture genuinely helps ESL/ELL learners grasp the word. Abstract or context-dependent meanings are intentionally shown as text only.*

## Homophone · Lesson 1 of 7

### Wait / Weight

Useful around health, exercise, and travel topics.

#### Meaning 1

**Weight:** how heavy something or someone is.

Same sound as 'wait', but used in health, science, and everyday measurements.

"The doctor checked his weight."

"This bag has a lot of weight."

#### Meaning 2

**Wait:** to stay in one place until something happens.

These words sound the same, so learners can mix up the idea of staying and the idea of how heavy something is.

"Please wait here until your name is called."

"We had to wait a long time for the bus."



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/wait-weight](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/wait-weight)

**Homograph · Lesson 2 of 7****Sow**

The verb 'sow' (plant) sounds the same as 'sew' (with a needle).

**Meaning 1**

To plant seeds in the ground.

Pronounced like 'so' or 'go'. Used in farming and gardening.

"Spring is the best time to sow sunflower seeds."

"Farmers sow wheat in the autumn."

**Meaning 2**

An adult female pig.

Pronounced like 'how' or 'now'.

"The sow was resting with her piglets."

"A female pig is called a sow."

Related: plant; farm; pig; seeds



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/sow](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/sow)

## Idiom · Lesson 3 of 7

**Cut corners**

Usually has a negative connotation regarding the final result.

**Meaning 1**

To do something poorly or skip steps to save time or money.

Think of driving a car and cutting across a corner instead of following the road. It implies a loss of quality or safety.

"The builders cut corners on the foundation, and now the walls are cracking."

"We shouldn't cut corners when it comes to safety regulations."

Related: skimp; shortcut; shoddy



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/cut-corners](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/cut-corners)

## Slang · Lesson 4 of 7

**Yeet**

This word originated from internet culture (memes and viral videos) and is very informal. The verb is most common, with the past tense being 'yeeted'.

**Meaning 1**

(As a verb) To throw something with a lot of force and without care.

This word is an onomatopoeia; it sounds like the action it describes (a quick, forceful motion). It is not a formal word for 'throw,' but an expressive one. Think of it as throwing something with a 'YEET!' sound.

"He finished his soda and just yeeted the can into the trash."

"Don't yeet your phone on the bed like that!"

**Meaning 2**

(As an exclamation) An expression of excitement, approval, or surprise.

This usage comes from a viral internet video. It's shouted to express strong emotion, similar to saying 'Yes!' or 'Woo!', often while making a throwing motion or dancing.

"I passed my exam! Yeet!"

"When the DJ played her favorite song, she yelled 'YEET!'"

Related: throw; hurl; fling; toss



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/yeet](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/yeet)

## Contronym · Lesson 5 of 7

**Sanction**

Look for the context: if used as 'sanctions' (plural noun), it almost always refers to punishments.

**Meaning 1**

To impose a penalty or punishment on a person or country.

In international news, this usually refers to economic punishments intended to force change.

"The UN decided to sanction the country for violating the treaty."

"The sports league will sanction the team for cheating."

**Meaning 2**

To give official permission or approval for an action.

Used in formal or legal contexts to say that something is allowed.

"The government will sanction the construction of the new highway."

"The university sanctioned the student's research project."

Related: authorize; penalize; restriction



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/sanction](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/sanction)

**Multi-Meaning · Lesson 6 of 7****Book**

The phrase 'by the book' means following all the rules strictly.

**Meaning 1**

To officially record someone's names and crimes at a police station.

Commonly heard in crime dramas and news reports.

"The police officer booked the suspect for shoplifting."

"After the arrest, they took him to the station to book him."

**Meaning 2**

A set of printed pages held together in a cover for reading.

The most basic noun form taught to all beginners.

"I read a very interesting book last week."

"Please set your books on the desk."

**Meaning 3**

To reserve a place or a service in advance.

As a verb, this is essential for travel and dining. Learners might use 'order' or 'make' incorrectly instead.

"I need to book a flight to Paris."

"We booked a table at the restaurant for 8:00 PM."

Related: reserve; novel; log; schedule



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/book](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/book)

## Euphemism · Lesson 7 of 7

**Thin on top**

This describes the early stages of hair loss at the crown of the head.

**Meaning 1**

A gentle way to describe a man who is going bald.

Calling someone 'bald' can be seen as rude; 'thin on top' describes the hair loss more softly.

"My father is getting a little thin on top now that he's in his sixties."

"He decided to shave his head because he was becoming thin on top."

Related: balding; receding hairline; hair loss



**Read the full lesson**

[eslwordwiz.com/words/thin-on-top](https://eslwordwiz.com/words/thin-on-top)



Scan to visit

**[eslwordwiz.com](https://eslwordwiz.com)**

© 2026 ESL Word Wiz. This PDF may be shared freely as long as ESL Word Wiz branding and all links remain intact.

[ESLWordWiz.com](https://ESLWordWiz.com)