Name: Date: Score: / 8

# Literal or Not?: Learn and Practice

Tell real meanings from playful phrases

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

### 💡 Literal and Nonliteral

- Literal words mean exactly what they say.
- Nonliteral phrases mean something different from the words. Raining cats and dogs means raining very hard.
- Hold your horses means wait a moment.

**1** 🐈 Is this literal or nonliteral? My cat sat on the windowsill.

A. literal B. nonliteral C. both D. neither

**2** 👂 What does I am all ears mean?

A. I cannot hear. B. I have many ears.
C. My ears hurt. D. I am listening closely.

**3** 🐕 Which sentence is literal?

A. It is a piece of cake.
B. The dog chased the ball. C. I am all ears.
D. He has a heart of gold.

**4** 🐎 What does hold your horses mean?

A. feed the horses B. ride a horse
C. wait and slow down D. hurry up

**5** 🍽️ Sara said, I am so hungry I could eat a horse. What does she mean?

A. She wants to eat a horse.
B. She is not hungry. C. She is very hungry.
D. She has a pet horse.

**6** 🍰 What does piece of cake mean? The test was a piece of cake.

A. about food B. very hard C. a dessert
D. very easy

**7** 🎭 What does break a leg mean before a show?

A. dance badly B. go home C. good luck
D. get hurt

**8** 🌧️ What does it mean when it is raining cats and dogs?

A. It is a sunny day. B. It is raining very hard.
C. Animals are falling from the sky.
D. It is a light rain.

### ✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for literal or not? and one example.

ANSWER KEY

# Literal or Not?: Learn and Practice (answers)

Tell real meanings from playful phrases

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

**1** 🐈 Is this literal or nonliteral? My cat sat on the windowsill.

**A. literal** B. nonliteral C. both D. neither

*The cat really sat there, so the sentence is literal.*

**2** 👂 What does I am all ears mean?

A. I cannot hear. B. I have many ears.

C. My ears hurt. **D. I am listening closely.**

*All ears means you are ready to listen carefully.*

**3** 🐕 Which sentence is literal?

A. It is a piece of cake.

**B. The dog chased the ball.** C. I am all ears.

D. He has a heart of gold.

*The dog really did chase the ball. The words mean exactly what they say.*

**4** 🐎 What does hold your horses mean?

A. feed the horses B. ride a horse

**C. wait and slow down** D. hurry up

*Hold your horses means be patient and wait.*

**5** 🍽️ Sara said, I am so hungry I could eat a horse. What does she mean?

A. She wants to eat a horse.

B. She is not hungry. **C. She is very hungry.**

D. She has a pet horse.

*Sara is stretching the truth to show how hungry she is.*

**6** 🍰 What does piece of cake mean? The test was a piece of cake.

A. about food B. very hard C. a dessert

**D. very easy**

*A piece of cake means something was very easy.*

**7** 🎭 What does break a leg mean before a show?

A. dance badly B. go home **C. good luck**

D. get hurt

*Actors say break a leg to wish each other good luck.*

**8** 🌧️ What does it mean when it is raining cats and dogs?

A. It is a sunny day. **B. It is raining very hard.**

C. Animals are falling from the sky.

D. It is a light rain.

*This phrase is nonliteral. It means a very heavy rain.*