

## TASK SHEET: Playing with the language of school



- In the extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* which you are going to read, the Mock Turtle is telling Alice about his school days, aided by his friend the Gryphon. Tell a partner what other episodes you know from either of Lewis Carroll's two books, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*.
- Look at the three words below. If necessary, use a dictionary to find out what they mean, and write a definition of each, and some examples of (b) and (c).
  - A pun is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - A homophone is \_\_\_\_\_  
These are some examples: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ; 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ ; 3) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A homograph is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Some examples are 1) \_\_\_\_\_ meaning \_\_\_\_\_ and also  
meaning \_\_\_\_\_ ; 2) \_\_\_\_\_ meaning \_\_\_\_\_ and also  
meaning \_\_\_\_\_ ; 3) \_\_\_\_\_ meaning \_\_\_\_\_ and also  
meaning \_\_\_\_\_.
- Look at these puns:
  - You can tune a guitar, but you can't tuna fish. Unless, of course, you play bass. (Douglas Adams)
  - Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
  - Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who couldn't control his pupils?  
Talk about them with a partner and discuss what makes them work.
- Read the extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. As you read, underline all the puns that you find, then compare with a partner.
- Write the words that Lewis Carroll was punning on in the table below.

Mock Turtle's Word	Punning on . . .	Mock Turtle's Word	Punning on . . .
Tortoise	<i>taught us</i>	Seaography	
Reeling		Drawling	
Writhing		Stretc.hing	
Ambition		Fainting in Coils	
Distraction		an old crab	
Uglification		Laughing	
Derision		Grief	
Mystery		Lessons	

- All of these puns use homophones, except one, which is a homograph. Which is the homograph?
- Find two or three puns (or make some up) and tell your friends. Do they think they are funny? How do they work?