Word Trivia 11/8/26

Contronyms

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Overview:

Contronyms are two words with the same spelling that have opposing meanings. For example, the word **CLIP** is a contronym, because it can mean both to **DETACH** and to **FASTEN**. *Part of Mary's job was to _____ articles from the newspaper and then _____ them together for filing*.

Can you identify the contronyms in this quiz?

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.

2. Read the first two question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.

3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.

4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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QUESTIONS

1. In baseball this is a miss; in bowling it's a hit.
2. To secure; or to flee. *Even after Tim took care to _____ the stall door, the stallion still managed to _____ the first chance he got.*
3. To decorate; or to remove excess. *Before Sarah could _____ her Christmas tree, she had to _____ a few branches.*
4. Among ethnic groups, it's a common practice; among tailors, it's a special order.
5. In baking, this means to sprinkle with fine particles (of sugar, for example); in housekeeping, it means to remove fine particles.
6. To open the curtains; or to close the curtains.
7. The most severe murder charge; the least severe burn.
8. In golf, it's an advantage; in other aspects of life, it can be a disadvantage or limitation.
9. Remaining; or departed. *When there were only two cookies _____, Aunt Sally _____ to buy more.*
10. Activated; or deactivated. *The alarm clock went ____ before Edna could reach over and turn it _____.*
11. A duty to pay attention; or a failure to pay attention. *Herman, whose key responsibility was _____ of the financial reporting process, said his failure to notice the million dollar discrepancy was just an _____ .*
12. To widely display; or to selectively choose. *The famous actor wanted to _____ his new film to fans only , so he told his assistant to _____ the guest list for its premiere.*

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Contronyms

ANSWERS

1. Strike
2. Bolt
3. Trim
4. Custom
5. Dust
6. Draw
7. First Degree
8. Handicap
9. Left
10. Off
11. Oversight
12. Screen

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