



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Same Words, Different Effect

An activity of "Tee and Boba".

Read the comics, "Tee and Boba" (page 28, *What's Up* August 2025). Punctuation is important. Just a slight change can make sentences take on different meanings!

ON YOUR OWN

1. Shift, add or delete commas or hyphens to change these sentences' funny meanings to more sensible ones.
 - a) Let's eat Grandma.
 - b) I like baking my family and my pets.
 - c) The panda eats, shoots, and leaves.
 - d) We are going to learn how to cut and paste Dad.
 - e) A giant man eating fish was found in the lake.
 - f) Hungry? Don't worry. We cook everyone.
 - g) No dogs please children.
 - h) Most of the time travellers worry about their luggage.
 - i) It's only been two days and the chicken already smells my friend.

IN SMALL GROUPS

2a) Select any of the neutral sentences from this list.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ▪ Thanks a lot. | ▪ Really? |
| ▪ I can't believe it. | ▪ Great job. |
| ▪ What are you doing? | ▪ That's interesting. |
| ▪ You're unbelievable. | ▪ Wow. I'm impressed. |

2b) Create two mini scenes (no more than 1 min each):

Scene A: Use the sentence in a positive way (e.g. happy, impressed, or grateful).

Scene B: Use the sentence in a negative way (e.g. angry, sarcastic, or disappointed).

Example

Sentence: *Fine!*

Scene A (positive): *Saying "Fine!" when you gladly agree to play a favourite game.*

Scene B (negative): *Saying "Fine!" when you angrily give in during an argument.*

Plan your scenes here:

Our Sentence
Scene A (Positive) using our sentence.
Scene B (Negative) using our sentence.

3a) Rehearse and then perform your mini scenes to the class. Try to vary your tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language to make the two scenes distinct from each other. Have fun!

3b) Reflect on the performances by responding to these prompts.

<i>Which group made the meaning change most clearly? How?</i>
<i>Have you ever been misunderstood or have you ever misunderstood someone? What happened and how did it feel?</i>
<i>Do you think the misunderstanding you described could have been avoided? Why or why not? What could have been done differently to avoid it?</i>