BIRD BRAINS
Vocabulary Strategy

MULTIPLE-MEANING WORDS
Many English words have more than one meaning. For example, you might know that the vocabulary word engage can refer to a promise of marriage. Given this, you may have been confused by its use in this article. Here it means “to involve” or “to participate.”

When you come across a familiar word that suddenly does not make sense to you, look at the words and sentences around it for clues to a different meaning for the word. If you are still unsure, check a dictionary.

A. Directions: Define each boldfaced word, using context clues to help you. Use a dictionary if you need to.

1. Deion needed to go to the store for some milk. ______________________________
   Wendy likes to store her backpack under her desk. ______________________________

2. The tree started to die and its bark began falling off. ______________________________
   Mom somehow trained the dog not to bark at the cat. ______________________________

3. The couch was large, yet surprisingly light. ______________________________
   Jake turned on the light so he could read. ______________________________

4. The writer was interesting but failed to make her point. ______________________________
   Gerald sharpened his pencil after the point became dull. ______________________________

5. Kendra surprised her sister by giving her a new watch. ______________________________
   Rhonda had never been one to watch much television. ______________________________

6. Maria asked for a roll with her soup instead of crackers. ______________________________
   Ted used to climb to the top of the hill and roll down. ______________________________

B. Directions: Write sentences showing different meanings for each of these words: block, list.

7. ______________________________
   ______________________________