



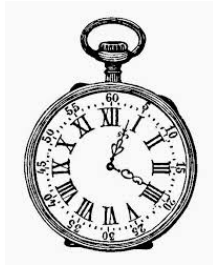
The Wonder of Words

By Eileen Price

We all know about the power of words – an unkind word can break a heart; a kind, encouraging word can keep you smiling for hours, even days. When you think about it, words are actually quite amazing...they can create a picture, conjure a sight, a sound, or even a smell.

So here we have a collection of symbols – known as letters – mapped to unique sounds. They are then organized into a particular order to create a word. And each word calls up an image, an action, and even a memory.

WATCH



and



WATCH

For the word **watch**, what was the first image that came to you?

Here are some words that are fun to say – some even sound like what they represent!

- Waffle
- Hiccup
- Breathe
- Wind
- Chirp
- Picnic
- Reach out
- Slide

Did you think of some, too? Try this out at dinner – who comes up with the winning word?

Activities:

Switcheroo

Select a word at least 5 letters long. Ask what other words can be made with these letters?

Example:

WATCH → THAW CAT HAT WHAT CHAT

This is a fun restaurant game, waiting in line [game](#), driving a long-distance [game](#), at the market game, or other such [family activities](#). It's also a party game! (No computers or electronic devices required.)

What is the Meaning of This?

Select a word (here are a few samples). Write words on a 3 x 5 card or the back of business cards. Mix the cards, then pick a card and read it out loud.

Who has a meaning for that word? Can you use it in a sentence? How else could it be used?

Example: **HAND** 1) Hold my hand; 2) Give me a hand; 3) Hand that to me

- Bark
- Nails
- Fall
- Run
- Up
- Pitcher
- Season
- Play

"Words are, in my not so humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic, capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it." Albus Dumbledore, [Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows II](#)