

Blending Words & Wisdom: A Portmanteaus Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

A portmanteau (pronounced port-man-toe) is a literary term for a word that is created by blending two or more distinct words together to form a brand new meaning. The author Lewis Carroll first introduced this concept in his famous book *Through the Looking-Glass*. He described it as a suitcase with two separate compartments, where two meanings are "packed up into one word".

- Example: Breakfast + Lunch = Brunch
- Example: Smoke + Fog = Smog

Portmanteau Breakdown

Look at the common portmanteau words below. Identify the two original words that were blended together to create them.

1. Frenemy: _____ + _____
2. Spork: _____ + _____

DID THEY SAY
POOR MAN
TOE?

The NKJV Scripture Connection

While the word "portmanteau" isn't explicitly used in the Bible, scripture is filled with instances where concepts, titles, or descriptions seamlessly blend together to reveal deeper meanings.

Let's look at how the New King James Version (NKJV) captures powerful combinations.



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Jeremiah 23:5

"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth."

- Question: Prophets often combined the political role of a ruler (King) with the functional action of ruling (Reign). If you were a writer inventing a brand new portmanteau to describe a holy King who reigns with perfect justice, how could you combine King and Reign?
- Your Word: _____

Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

- Question: At the birth of Jesus, the angels blended two beautiful values together: Peace and Goodwill. Imagine a culture where these two traits are completely inseparable. Create a brand new portmanteau by blending Peace and Goodwill.
- Your Word: _____

Ephesians 4:15

"...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—"

- Question: The Apostle Paul challenges believers to balance two massive ideas that can sometimes feel like opposites: absolute Truth and unconditional Love. Blend these two essential Christian character traits together to invent a portmanteau word.
- Your Word: _____