

# Functions

## Guided Discussion

**Say this:** One thing you do a lot when you talk about things is you talk about what things do. This is called their function.

**Ask:** Do you know what functions are?

**Say this:** Functions are what things do. You use functions a lot when you talk about words. Knowing them helps you words and helps you show that you know words.

**Give examples:** "For example, if I ask, 'What is a pencil?' what could you say? You could say it's long and has a point and eraser, but the best thing to say is probably what it does. What does a pencil do? It writes. This is its function." This works for a lot of words. What is a vacuum? What is a ladder? What is a notebook?" Provide as many examples as necessary.

**Check** for understanding: So, what is a function?

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## Guided Practice Ideas

### Quick Drill

Instruct students to provide functions at appropriate levels. Provide answers as necessary to achieve near 100% accuracy. Some examples:

#### **Pre-Academic**

What does a telephone do? It helps you talk with distant people.  
What does a car do? It drives you places.  
What does glue do? It sticks things together.  
What does an eraser do? It erases boards or paper, so you can write.

#### **Early Elementary**

What does a scale do? It weighs things. It tells you how heavy things are.  
What does a model do? It makes things easier to understand.  
What does a capital letter do? It tells you when a sentence is beginning.

#### **Late Elementary**

What does a prediction do? It's a guess about what's going to happen.  
What does an adjective do? It's a word that describes something.  
What does a symbol do? It's a picture that stands for something else.

#### **Advanced**

What does an advertisement do? It helps companies sell their products.  
What does a tax do? It's money the government uses to pay for things.