

## Single or Double

**Teachers: Have the STUDENTS read each paragraph and answer the questions when applicable. Please don't read for them.**

1-Single means only one. EX: We lost the game by a **single** point. It can also refer to one dollar bills. EX: Can you loan me a couple of singles to tip the porter with? It also means not married. EX: Are you still **single**? You can be a single mom which means you are not married to your child's father. You can go to a **singles** bar to meet other singles.

2-Single can be used to emphasize something. EX: Smoking is the **single** most important cause of lung cancer. This is the **single** greatest day of my life. I need every **single** one of you to focus and concentrate on the game.

3-Single can be used to refer to something designed for only one person, as in a **single** bed. If you are booking a trip, you can ask for a single, that is a room for one person.

4-If you walk in **single file**, you walk in a line, one behind the other. If you **single-handedly** race around the world in a sailboat, there is no one on the boat but you. You might win the Women's **Single-handed** Sailboat Race.

5-If you are **single-minded** you have one clear goal you want to achieve. We talk about someone's single-minded determination to win the game. If you walk **singly**, you walk alone. EX: The plaza filled with people walking singly and in groups. In grammar, **singular** means only one thing. EX: Cat is a singular noun, and cats is a plural noun.

6-If you **single out** someone, you pick them out for special attention. It can be a positive or a negative. EX: The teacher always singles me out and punishes me. It's not fair because everyone was talking.

EX: The teacher singled me out as a student who always did excellent work.

### Discuss:

1. Did your teachers ever single you out in school? Was it usually positive or negative?
2. Do you prefer to travel singly or with someone else?
3. What was the single greatest day of your life?
4. Are you single or married?
5. Do you think life is harder for single moms?

**Double: To understand the various uses of "double", read these conversations. Try to find a definition in the chart at the bottom of the next page that matches the bold phrases.**

Jill: I went to the Smith house this weekend.

Vera: How was it?

Jill: The house is very large. You enter through heavy **double doors**. Inside you'll find a huge kitchen with **double sinks**. The stove has **double ovens**. The **single** oddest thing was that all the bedrooms had either **single** or **double** beds. There were no queen beds or king beds. And in one of the bedrooms, there is just a sofa that **doubles as** a bed.

Vera: How did Mr. Smith get so wealthy?

Jill: He invested in the stock market and **doubled** his money.

Vera: How much did he pay for that house?

Jill: I heard he paid **double** the value. But he says when he sells it, he'll just **double the price**.

Vera: Do the Smith's have kids?

Jill: They have twin boys and they are **double-trouble**. What one boy doesn't think of the other one does.

Vera: Do they look alike?

Jill: Oh yes, they could easily **double for** each other. In fact, when the second twin came into the room I did a **double-take**. I thought I was having **double-vision**. The twins enjoy fooling guests and when they saw my expression they **doubled over** with laughter.

Sara: I am having the single most awful day of my life.

Tanya: Why? What's happening?

Sara: I just found out my husband is leading a **double life**. He has another wife and two kids in a different state.

Tanya: What did you say to your husband when you found out?

Sara: I asked him why he would do that and he gave me a bunch of **double-talk** about how he loves both of us equally. Now, I'm **doubly** mad. He thinks most men will understand and not judge him.

Tanya: He may be right. There is such a **double-standard** when it comes to men's and women's behavior. It seems men can get away with anything.

Sara: I feel like he **double-crossed** me. He told me he was putting money in a college fund for my daughter. But all the time he was using that money to buy a house for his second wife and kids.

Tanya: Let's go have a **double martini**. It will numb the pain.

Jack: Did you lock the front door?

Lynn: I think I did, but I'm not sure.

Jack: We'd better **double back** so we can **double-check**. I'll **double park** since it won't take but a minute to run in.

Lynn: I'll get there **on the double**.

### Double Definitions

having two parts that are the same	twice the amount
suddenly look at someone or something again	someone who looks exactly like another person
very soon	designed for two people
bend over at the waist	check something a second time
cheat someone by being dishonest	serves two purposes
park behind another car that is already parked	a rule that is unfair because it treats one group differently from another
speech that is complicated and intended to confuse	see two of everything
more than usual	

