

1 Today, I'd like to talk about three ways in 53
2 which the word "mean" can be used. The first 54
3 way is to talk about the meaning of a 55
4 particular word. For example, if you are 56
5 reading a book and you find an English word 57
6 that you don't understand, you might point to 58
7 the word and ask, "What does this word 59
8 mean?" I strongly recommend that you ask 60
9 questions like this about words that you don't 61
10 understand. It's a great way to learn. 62
11
12 The other two ways both come up in The 64
13 Wizard of OZ several times. Here's a 65
14 conversation between Miss Gulch and Uncle 66
15 Henry that is an example of the second way in 67
16 which the word "mean" can be used: 68
17
18 Gulch: I want to see you and your wife 70
19 right away about Dorothy. 71
20 Henry: Dorothy? Well, what has 72
21 Dorothy done? 73
22 Gulch: What's she done? I'm all but 74
23 lame from the bite on my leg! 75
24 Henry: You mean she bit you? 76
25 Gulch: No, her dog! 77
26 Henry: Oh, she bit her dog, eh? 78
27 Gulch: No! 79
28
29 It is clear from what Miss Gulch said that she 81
30 has been bitten on her leg but she did not say 82
31 who or what has bitten her. Since Miss Gulch 83
32 began by saying that she came to talk about 84
33 Dorothy, Uncle Henry asks if Miss Gulch is 85
34 trying to say that Dorothy bit her. It's difficult 86
35 to hear all of the words but he is saying "You 87
36 mean she bit you?" 88
37
38 This is the second way in which the word 90
39 "mean" can be used -- to talk about what 91
40 someone is trying to say or talk about. 92
41
42 Here's another example from the 94
43 movie of this way of using the word 95
44 "mean." Dorothy is talking with 96
45 Professor Marvel: 97
46 Dorothy: Oh, please, Professor, why 98
47 can't we go with you and see all the 99
48 Crowned Heads of Europe? 100
49 Professor: Do you know any? Oh, you 101
50 mean the thing . . . Yes, well, I -- I 102
51 never do anything without consulting 103
52 my crystal first.

Dorothy asks about going to see the "Crowned
Heads of Europe" (that is, kings and queens in
Europe) because she saw the sign on
Professor Marvel's wagon. For a moment,
Professor Marvel does not know what
Dorothy is talking about but then he
remembers his sign and says "Oh, you mean
the thing" written on my wagon. So, in this
case "Oh, you mean the thing" means "Oh,
you are talking about the sign."

Finally, here's an example of the third way in
which the word "mean" can be used:

Please, Aunt Em, Toto didn't mean to.
He didn't know he was doing anything
wrong.

Dorothy is telling Aunt Em that Toto didn't
intend to do anything wrong to Miss
Gulch. Here's another example:

Witch: Who killed my sister? Who
killed the Witch of the East? Was it
you?
Dorothy: No, no. It was an accident! I
didn't mean to kill anybody!

Dorothy uses the word "mean" in the same
way after she kills the Wicked Witch of the
West:

Guard: She's dead. You've killed her.
Dorothy: I didn't mean to kill her,
really I didn't. It's just that he was on
fire!
Here, too, Dorothy is saying that she
didn't intend to kill anyone.

To review, the first way in which the word
"mean" can be used is to talk about the
meaning of a particular word, as in the
sentence, "What does this word mean?" The
second way is to talk about about what
someone is trying to say or talk about, as in
the sentence, "Do you mean that Dorothy bit
you?" Finally, the third way is to use the word
"mean" to talk about what someone did or did
not intend to do, as in, "I didn't mean to do it.
It was an accident."