



Vocabulary Skill Sequence

- Basic Categories
- Basic Concept Words
- Describing Words
- Combining Adjectives
- **CATEGORIZING WORDS**
- Multiple Meaning Words
- Synonyms & Antonyms
- Similes & Metaphors
- Idioms
- Simple Analogies
- Affix & Root Meaning (Structural Analysis)
- Academic Vocabulary
- Shades of Meaning
- Complex Analogies

Curriculum Connection

As often as possible, encourage students to think in categories as they learn content-area information. When presenting new content, identify the topic or category for students. Display new vocabulary and concepts in a word web or category map, using pictures or words as appropriate.

Categorizing Words

Categorizing involves grouping things that are alike in some way. As students categorize and identify relationships between words they read, they broaden their vocabulary, learn to make generalizations, and build their comprehension.

Classroom Ideas

Teach or Review

As necessary, teach or review the concept of categorizing. Present decodable words to students, such as *cat*, *dog*, *hop*, and *run*. Have students read words and then sort words into two different categories. Have students label the categories (e.g., animals and actions) and then list additional words to fit each group.

Tell Me More

Display decodable words, such as those listed on the following page, that belong to one category. Have students read each word and label the category. Encourage students to tell why each word belongs in that group.

Mystery Word

Say four different words (e.g., ladybug, fire engine, cucumber, raspberry). Ask students to explain which word does not fit with the others (cucumber) and why (it is green, and others are red). Finally, ask them to name something that *does* fit in the same category as the other words (e.g., grass).

Brainstorm

Provide students with a broad category name (e.g., Food). Then, discuss the idea of subcategories, generating examples together (e.g., Vegetables, Fruits, Grains). Finally, have students suggest examples of words that might fall within each subcategory (e.g., broccoli, peas, carrots). Display these words in a word web, using picture cues as needed.

Scavenger Hunt

In pairs, have students participate in a word hunt. Ask them to find words in the classroom that fit into categories (e.g., a noun, an adjective, a closed syllable, a weather term). Have students record, share, and compare their findings.

**Decodable (CVC) Words: Category Groupings**

animals	hog, cat, hen, rat, dog, pig, ram
kitchen items	jug, can, cup, mug, pot
actions	run, hop, jog, dig, rip, tug
outside items	hut, fog, mud, log, sun, bug
inside items	bed, tub, rug, cot, fan, mop
food	nut, ham, jam, fig, bun, gum