



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

Apply newly learned adjectives to previously learned content. For example, if students learn the adjectives *fragile* and *sturdy*, have them describe elements of nature using one of the two adjectives (e.g., newly hatched chicks are very *fragile* and must stay with their mothers; oak trees are *sturdy* and do not bend in the wind).

Describing Words

Adjectives are describing words that tell what something looks like, feels like, sounds like, tastes like, or smells like. Students build their vocabulary as they determine the meanings of unfamiliar adjectives and begin to use the new words on their own.

Classroom Ideas

Teach or Review

As necessary, teach or review the concept of a describing word. Show pictures or objects that can all be described with one adjective (e.g., small, fuzzy, heavy) and talk about similarities between the objects or pictures. Then, mix in one object or picture that cannot be described by this adjective. Ask students to explain why this object does not fit. See if students can generate another adjective to describe this object.

Show & Tell

Divide students into small groups and give each group an adjective (e.g., silly, strong, broken, fancy). Have each student in the group draw a picture to illustrate the word and have them compare and discuss their drawings. Talk about similarities and differences in the drawings and the different ways in which this adjective may be used.

Beat the Clock

Play a game in which students need to generate as many items as they can to match a presented adjective in a set amount of time. For example, present the word “shiny” and have students give words that could be described with this adjective (e.g., coin, diamond, shoes). Display ideas using a word web with the adjective stated in the center. Use pictures or words as appropriate.

Art Studio

Introduce a new adjective and the meaning (e.g., nutritious) to students. Distribute magazines to students and ask them to find pictures that represent the adjective. Ask students to share findings, describing why each picture is an appropriate selection. Create a collective picture collage to illustrate the meaning of the new adjective.

Brainstorm

Display an object for students. Have them generate adjectives to describe the object. Help them select two or three of their more interesting suggestions and ask the students to come up with other objects that could also be described using the same adjective(s). Students may illustrate some of those additional objects.