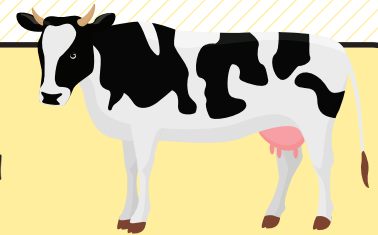


Word Meaning

Helping Your Child Determine the Meaning of Words

As children begin to read more difficult stories and passages, they can come across words they don't understand. Sometimes they can figure out what a word means by using the rest of the sentence to understand an unknown word. Teachers call this skill understanding words in context. Context clues are hints in a sentence or passage that can help children define a word they don't know. Teachers also ask children to think of words that have the same (synonyms) or opposite (antonyms) meaning.



Word Express

The purpose of this game is for your child to be able to understand the meaning of words they hear in sentences. Cut apart the Word Express questions cards. Place the cards face down in a stack. Select the top card from the stack and read the sentence to your child. For example, "If a farmer has to prod the cow to move, does he sing to it or push it?" Have him tell you the answer and check the card to see if it is correct. In this case, the farmer pushes the cow. If your child gives the correct answer, he keeps the card. If incorrect, tell him the correct answer and place it at the bottom of the stack. Continue until all the cards are read and answered correctly. The correct answers are on the Word Express Parent Answer Sheet (numbers on the cards match the numbers on the Parent Answer Sheet).

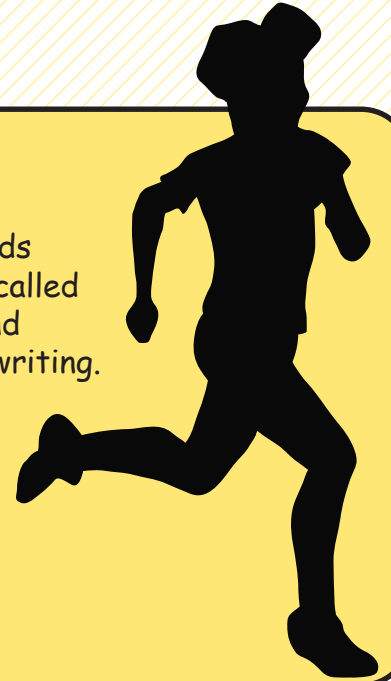
What-a-Word

In this activity, your child gets to choose words to complete a story. Give your child the *A Day at the Beach* story. Notice how there are several blank spaces in the story. Also, notice that there is a list of words in the Word Bank at the bottom. Read through the story with your child. At each blank spot, have her select the word from the Word Bank that best completes the sentence. Have her read the sentence with the selected word. If the sentence sounds correct, have her write the selected word in the blank. If the sentence doesn't sound correct, have her select another word. The correct answer is on the What-a-Word Parent Answer Sheet. Continue until the story is complete.



Synonyms

Teachers often say a word and then ask children to name other words that have the same meaning. Words that have similar meanings are called synonyms. Examples of synonyms are giant/huge, adult/grown-up, and dog/pooch. Knowing synonyms helps children with both reading and writing. Recognizing synonyms helps a child understand what he is reading. Being able to use synonyms in writing means that he can use other words rather than repeating the same word. It might be a story about a boy who is running. Instead of repeating that he's running, he can write about the boy jogging, sprinting, or zipping by! Play the following Synonym Bingo! game to help him practice finding synonyms.



Synonym Bingo!

Tell your child that you are going to play a game about synonyms—words that have similar meanings, like car and automobile. Cut out the Game 1 Synonym Cards. Shuffle the cards and put them in a bowl. Give your child the Game 1 Synonym Bingo Card. Have him take a card from the bowl and read the word (for example, "yell"). Look for the matching synonym on the Synonym Bingo Card (for example, "shout"). If he finds a synonym, have him place the synonym card on that word on the bingo card. Continue until all the words on the bingo card are covered. The correct answers are on the Synonym Bingo! Parent Answer Sheet.



Play the same game using the Game 2 Synonym Cards and Game 2 Synonym Bingo card. See Synonym Bingo! Parent Answer Sheet for Game 2.

Antonyms

Other times, teachers say a word and ask children to name words with the opposite meaning. Opposite words are called antonyms. Examples of antonyms are hot/cold, big/small, and



near/far. A child has to understand a word to begin with before he can come up with an antonym. For example, he needs to know what the word "nervous" means before he can come up with its antonym, "calm." Figuring out antonyms helps children learn the meaning of words.

Play the following Antonym Concentration game to help him practice finding antonyms.

Antonym Concentration

appear

vanish

Start by cutting out Set 1 of the Antonym game cards. Spread out the antonym cards face down on a table. Taking turns, select two cards and read them. See if the cards are antonyms, such as "appear" and "vanish." If the cards are not words with the opposite meaning, return them to their original places. Continue until you find all the pairs of cards that are antonyms. Play again but this time use the Set 2 Antonym game cards. Finally, try it one more time with the Set 3 game cards. The correct answers are on the Antonym Concentration Parent Answer Sheet.

Watch Families Doing Activities

To see families doing these activities, please go to: www.washoestrivingreaders.com. Next, click on the Family Literacy Videos tab at the top of the page. Then, scroll down the page and click on the video that goes with this tip sheet. Other tip sheets and videos are there as well.

More Ideas

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you can also talk to your child's teacher. There may be another tip sheet or other activities to help.



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Word Express

Question Cards (Cut apart cards)

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>If you had to yank on a door to open it, do you pull hard or use a key?</p> <p>1</p> | <p>If a leaf quivers in the wind, does the leaf change colors or shake?</p> <p>2</p> |
| <p>When someone is interested in the stars and gazes at them, is he looking or making wishes?</p> <p>3</p> | <p>If a mouse knows that a cat is near, he may scurry away. Will the mouse hurry or will he walk slowly?</p> <p>4</p> |
| <p>If a policeman is stern with a person who runs a red light, is he telling jokes or being firm and strict?</p> <p>5</p> | <p>If a woman is in a panic because she needs to make a phone call and can't find a phone, is she upset or tired?</p> <p>6</p> |
| <p>If an office parking lot is vacant on Sunday because no one is at work, is it empty or busy?</p> <p>7</p> | <p>If you didn't get enough sleep and are grumpy, are you hungry or in a bad mood?</p> <p>8</p> |

Word Express

Question Cards (Cut apart cards)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>If a weatherman informs people it is going to storm, is he teasing them or letting them know?</p> <p>9</p> | <p>If you complain about taking out the trash, are you unhappy about doing it or don't mind doing it?</p> <p>10</p> |
| <p>If a farmer has to prod the cow to move, does he sing to it or push it?</p> <p>11</p> | <p>If a doctor examines the sick patient, is he studying the patient or staying away from the patient?</p> <p>12</p> |
| <p>If the children had a splendid day at the fair, did they have an enjoyable or unhappy day?</p> <p>13</p> | <p>If a dress is exquisite because it is made of lace, is it too big or very beautiful?</p> <p>14</p> |
| <p>If you read a story that is strange and absurd, is it from a different country or completely silly?</p> <p>15</p> | <p>If the rocks glisten in the river, are they falling from the mountain or reflecting light because they are wet?</p> <p>16</p> |

Word Express

Parent Answer Sheet

(Correct answer is highlighted)

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>If you had to yank on a door to open it, do you pull hard or use a key?</p> <p>1</p> | <p>If a leaf quivers in the wind, does the leaf change colors or shake?</p> <p>2</p> |
| <p>When someone is interested in the stars and gazes at them, is he looking or making wishes?</p> <p>3</p> | <p>If a mouse knows that a cat is near, he may scurry away. Will the mouse hurry or will he walk slowly?</p> <p>4</p> |
| <p>If a policeman is stern with a person who runs a red light, is he telling jokes or being firm and strict?</p> <p>5</p> | <p>If a woman is in a panic because she needs to make a phone call and can't find a phone, is she upset or tired?</p> <p>6</p> |
| <p>If an office parking lot is vacant on Sunday because no one is at work, is it empty or busy?</p> <p>7</p> | <p>If you didn't get enough sleep and are grumpy, are you hungry or in a bad mood?</p> <p>8</p> |

Word Express

Parent Answer Sheet

(Correct answer is highlighted)

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>If a weatherman informs people it is going to storm, is he teasing them or letting them know?</p> <p>9</p> | <p>If you complain about taking out the trash, are you unhappy about doing it or don't mind doing it?</p> <p>10</p> |
| <p>If a farmer has to prod the cow to move, does he sing to it or push it?</p> <p>11</p> | <p>If a doctor examines the sick patient, is he studying the patient or staying away from the patient?</p> <p>12</p> |
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What-A-Word

A Day at the Beach

Linda and Sue were friends. The weather was _____ one Saturday, so they decided to spend the day at the beach. They started to collect everything they needed to take with them. Linda _____ the towels, sunglasses, and volleyball while Sue _____ the drinks, sandwiches, and snacks. They _____ the car with all of their belongings and started to pull out of the driveway.

"Wait!" Sue said. Linda stopped the car and waited for Sue to run back into the house. Sue _____ with her camera. "I can't forget this," she said. They started to back out of the _____ again.

"Oh no!" said Linda.

"What is the matter?" asked Sue.

"I need to go back inside to find my snorkel and mask."

Linda _____.

When Linda returned to the car with her snorkel and mask, Sue _____ up at the sky and saw the clouds growing dark. She didn't listen to the weather report that morning, so she wasn't sure if rain was in the _____. Just then, they heard thunder _____ in the distance. Moments later, drops of rain fell on the car's windshield. Both were _____ that their plans had been _____. They decided to go inside to play cards and eat their lunch.

"So much for a day at the beach!" said Linda.

Word Bank

gathered

loaded

prepared

forecast

glanced

driveway

glorious

disappointed

returned

rumble

spoiled

replied

What-A-Word

Parent Answer Sheet

A Day at the Beach

Linda and Sue were friends. The weather was glorious one Saturday, so they decided to spend the day at the beach. They started to collect everything they needed to take with them. Linda gathered the towels, sunglasses, and volleyball while Sue prepared the drinks, sandwiches, and snacks. They loaded the car with all of their belongings and started to pull out of the driveway.

"Wait!" Sue said. Linda stopped the car and waited for Sue to run back into the house. Sue returned with her camera. "I can't forget this," she said. They started to back out of the driveway again.

"Oh no!" said Linda.

"What is the matter?" asked Sue.

"I need to go back inside to find my snorkel and mask."

Linda replied.

When Linda returned to the car with her snorkel and mask, Sue glanced up at the sky and saw the clouds growing dark. She didn't listen to the weather report that morning, so she wasn't sure if rain was in the forecast. Just then, they heard thunder rumble in the distance. Moments later, drops of rain fell on the car's windshield. Both were disappointed that their plans had been spoiled. They decided to go inside to play cards and eat their lunch.

"So much for a day at the beach!" said Linda.

Word Bank

gathered

loaded

prepared

forecast

glanced

driveway

glorious

disappointed

returned

rumble

spoiled

replied

Synonym Bingo!

Game 1 Synonym Bingo Card

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|--------|
| every | ill | shout | close |
| agree | heal | late | finish |
| locate | mend | fragile | often |
| go | own | help | build |

Synonym Bingo!

Game 1 Synonym Cards
(Cut apart cards)

| | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| complete | possess | frequent | construct |
| find | consent | shut | cure |
| sick | leave | tardy | assist |
| fix | all | breakable | yell |

Synonym Bingo!

Parent Answer Sheet

Game 1

| Bingo Card | Synonym Cards |
|------------|---------------|
| every | all |
| ill | sick |
| shout | yell |
| close | shut |
| agree | consent |
| heal | cure |
| late | tardy |
| finish | complete |
| locate | find |
| mend | fix |
| fragile | breakable |
| often | frequent |
| go | leave |
| own | possess |
| help | assist |
| build | construct |

Synonym Bingo!

Game 2 Synonym Bingo Card

| | | | |
|-------|-------|------|-------|
| below | gift | thin | error |
| brave | allow | stop | want |
| try | begin | pair | right |
| put | hide | huge | near |

Synonym Bingo!

Game 2 Synonym Cards
(Cut apart cards)

| | | | |
|----------|---------|------------|---------|
| start | attempt | permit | present |
| close by | correct | slender | mistake |
| end | place | desire | couple |
| conceal | immense | courageous | under |

Synonym Bingo!

Parent Answer Sheet

Game 2

| Bingo Card | Synonym Cards |
|------------|---------------|
| below | under |
| gift | present |
| thin | slender |
| error | mistake |
| brave | courageous |
| allow | permit |
| stop | end |
| want | desire |
| try | attempt |
| begin | start |
| pair | couple |
| right | correct |
| put | place |
| hide | conceal |
| huge | immense |
| near | close by |

Antonym Concentration

Set 1 Antonym Game Cards
(Cut apart cards)

| | |
|---------|----------|
| problem | appear |
| strong | hide |
| vanish | solution |
| show | weak |

Antonym Concentration

Set 2 Antonym Game Cards
(Cut apart cards)

| | |
|--------|--------|
| raw | common |
| seldom | cooked |
| unique | full |
| vacant | often |

Antonym Concentration

Set 3 Antonym Game Cards
(Cut apart cards)

| | |
|---------|---------|
| deep | stale |
| complex | destroy |
| fresh | shallow |
| create | simple |

Antonym Concentration

Parent Answer Sheet

Set 1

| | |
|---------|----------|
| problem | solution |
| strong | weak |
| vanish | appear |
| show | hide |

Set 2

| | |
|--------|--------|
| raw | cooked |
| seldom | often |
| unique | common |
| vacant | full |

Set 3

| | |
|---------|---------|
| deep | shallow |
| complex | simple |
| fresh | stale |
| create | destroy |