

Lesson Skill: Identifying antonyms

Strands Oral Language, Reading

SOL 2.2, 2.7

Materials

- Paper (one sheet per each group of students)
- Chart paper, whiteboard, or interactive whiteboard
- Markers and scissors
- Antonym Matching Game Board (attached; one per student)

Lesson

1. Write these words on chart paper or on the board: full/empty, tall/short. Tell students both sets of words have something in common, and ask them what it is. (These words have opposite meanings and are called *antonyms*.) Ask students what antonyms they can “act out” (happy/sad, slow/fast, awake/asleep) and any others they can think of. Write their answers on chart paper or on the board.
2. Divide students into groups of three or four. Tell them they have two minutes to list as many antonyms as they can. Give each group only one sheet of paper. When time begins, the student who has the paper first writes one pair of antonyms and passes the paper to the next student. That student writes another pair of antonyms and passes the paper to the next person, and they keep it going around their group until the two minutes are up. The goal is for each group to list as many antonyms as they can. Encourage students to help one another if anyone in the group is having difficulty thinking of a pair of words. Have each group read their list aloud. Let the class decide whether the words in each pair have opposite meanings.
3. Give each student a blank Antonym Matching Game Board (attached). Have students think of any five antonym pairs and write one word in each box, making a matching game. Students can cut the words apart, lay the cards face down, and flip them over, two at a time, to try to find a match that are antonyms.

Assessment

- Observe students as they create their antonym matching games to assess their abilities to identify antonyms.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Prepare real objects to help students understand the concept of antonyms: full/empty—glass of water, in/out—of the crayon box, on top of/below—the line, in front /in back—of the room.
- Give students a list of words, and ask them to cite the antonyms.
- Ask students to explain the differences between each antonym in the following sets: hot/cold, tall/short, fast/slow, open/close, push/pull, up/down.

Antonym Matching Game Board
