

Word Learning Practice Activities

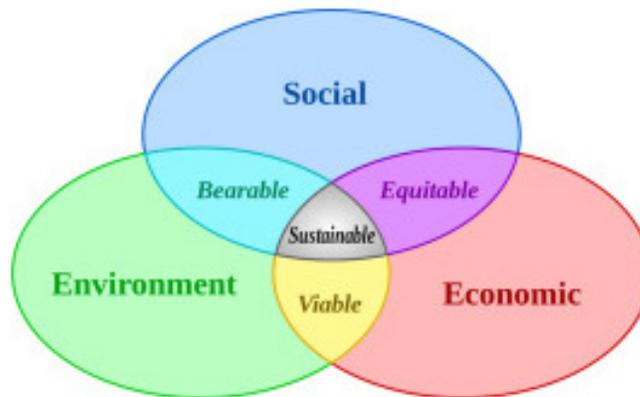
This document provides examples of different activities for word learning. It is a part of the Explicit Vocabulary Instruction training series.

Categorization & Classification Activities

Compare / Contrast Using Venn Diagrams

Example from [Science Direct Earth and Planetary Sciences](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/venn-diagrams)

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/venn-diagrams>)



Word Sorts

Example from [Building Content Literacy, Sage Publishing](#)

Directions: Survey the words, identify categories, and sort the list of words into the appropriate categories.

Armstrong	ragtime	reprised strain
Piano	written	sixteen measures
Joplin	ensemble	blues
prominent meter	distorted	jazz
syncopation	three phrases	Harlem
improvisation	rural	Waters
spiritual	folk song	

Semantic Feature Analysis

Example from [Raymond Jones](#)

Strategies for Reading Comprehension: Semantic Feature Analysis
 Developed by Johnson & Pearson (1984)

What Is It?

With a Semantic Feature Analysis chart or grid, one can examine related concepts but make distinctions between them according to particular criteria across which the concepts can be compared.

How Does It Work?

A set of concepts is listed down the left side (or across the top; it doesn't much matter which) and criteria or features are listed across the top (or down the side). If the concept is associated with the feature or characteristic, the student records a Y or a + (plus-sign) in the grid where that column and row intersect; if the feature is not associated with the concept, an N or - (minus-sign) is placed in the corresponding square on the grid. For instance, consider types of government: democracy, dictatorship, monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, and republic. What might be the characteristics of governments that might be associated with various types?

Help Me Visualize a Semantic Feature Analysis Chart

Got a good graphic for me?

Types of Government	FDR	JFK	Nixon	Reagan	Clinton
Democrat	+	+	-	-	+
War Time	+	-	+	-	-
Congress of Same Party	-/+	+	-	-/+	-/+
Re-Elected	+	-	+	-	-
Served in Congress	-	+	+	-	-
Won Majority of the Popular Vote	+	-	-/+	+	-

Synonym, Antonym, and Multiple-Meaning Activities

Antonym-Synonym Scaling

Example: Put the following synonyms and antonyms in order from least to most about someone's level of concern

- | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------------|
| Fearful | Apathetic | Consternation |
| Nervous | Dismay | Terrified |
| Panic | Trepidation | Dread |
| Unfazed | Alarm | Calm |

Word Analysis Web

Layout - based model in Moats & Tolman (2019)



Multiple Meaning

Example: "Date"

- A particular day in time such as "My **date** of birth was February 6, 1999."
- An event with a partner such as "I have a **date** with my boyfriend / girlfriend on Saturday."
- **Dates** are the fruit from a **date** palm tree and can be a good source of potassium.
- When someone is accused of **dating** themselves, it means that they are relating an experience or event that indicates how old they are.
- Carbon-**dating** is a way to estimate how old a fossil might be.

URLs Used in Document

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[Building Content Literacy, Sage Publishing](http://sk.sagepub.com/books/building-content-literacy/n2.xml)

(<http://sk.sagepub.com/books/building-content-literacy/n2.xml>)

[Raymond Jones](http://www.readingquest.org/sfa.html)

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