

Word Wall Activities

Activity #1:

Use four steps:

1. Write the word
2. Define the word
3. Find synonyms
4. Find antonyms.

Activity #2: Small group or Individual

Complete at least three.

1. Define the word.
2. What do you notice about the word.
 - a. # of letters
 - b. # of consonants, vowels
3. Create a math problem with the #'s. (May use #'s more than once.)
4. Use the word in a meaningful sentence.
5. Write all parts of speech for the word.
6. Analyze for root word, prefixes, suffixes

Activity #3: Pair of learners

“Words in Action”

Brainstorm words that describe how _____ looks, sounds, and/or feels.
In pairs create a list of 10 words that describe the vocabulary word.

Join another pair, share lists, and add any new words. Join another group of 4 and repeat. The end result will be a list to be posted in the room for use in writing and discussions.

Activity #4: Whole Class, Group, or Individual

Create a list of words associated with the vocabulary word.

For example:

synonyms
antonyms
descriptors
People/Organization

Activity #5: Whole Class

“Vocab’ on the Move”

1. Make cards of vocabulary words.
2. Tape one to each student’s back.
3. Directions: Walk around the room and ask your classmates.
What is a synonym for me?
What is an antonym for me?
Give me an example of me.
Give me an example of something I’m not.
What is a definition of me.
4. Use your clues to figure out your vocabulary word.

Activity #6: Group Activity

Word Origins and Root Words

Investigate the **Etymology** of a word- What is it? This document includes basic information on etymology with examples and resources.

Each group finds the word origin and root words of a set of word wall words and share its findings with a partner or the class.

Variation: Groups give the origin of a word and the class guesses the corresponding word wall word. Questions are encouraged.

Activity #7: Whole Class

Word Match

Create Word cards that may be cut in half. (**See Template**) Preprint or have learners write selected vocabulary on the cards. Precut or have learners cut. Collect and distribute randomly. Have learners find the other half of their word card. Have pairs line up and share their word with the group.

Activity #8: Whole Class:

Mystery Word

Introduce a new word by writing the letters in a scrambled order. Give clues, either about the word’s meaning, syllabication, or about how it is spelled to assist students in unscrambling the word. Have students apply their knowledge of spelling patterns, as well as activate prior knowledge, depending on the clues given.

Activity #9: Whole Class, Group, or Individual

Brainstorm words/phrases that are synonymous or ones that use the word. (Vocabulary word). Option: Post for use by learners or have them add to personal lexicons

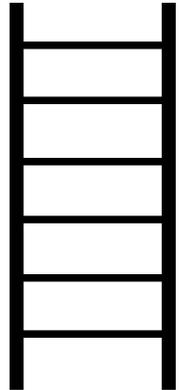
Activity #10: Individual, Pair, or Group

Word Ladder Concept

A. Learners place a word wall word at either the top or the bottom of a ladder graphic. In each successive part of the ladder, have learners fill in information about a different aspect of the word, e.g. Synonym, Antonym, where is it found, how is it used – part of speech, Origin or root word, etc.

B. Create a Word Ladder Puzzle. Start with one word at the top and by changing one letter on each rung, transform the word into another word (cannot be a nonsense word). It is easiest to begin with 4 letter words. Ex. dust - bust - best - belt - bell - tell

What famous person invented the ladder word puzzle?



Activity #11: Individual or Group

Create a visual display depicting the meaning of the word.

Activity #12: Individual or Group

Learner/s will act out the word for the class to guess.

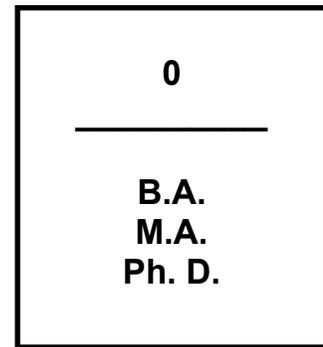
Activity #13: Individual or Group

Learner/s create a crossword puzzle or word search using a given number of the word wall words.

Activity #14:

Introduce learners to [Wordles](#) - word puzzles that stand for common phrases. Have learners create their own.

Answers: 3 degrees below zero



Other Resources:

- [Lexicon Resource](#) - 31 word tasks
- [General Lexicon with Marzano's Six Steps](#)
- [Vocabulary Strategies](#) - 15 versatile strategies for building and using enriched vocabulary with groups or individuals.
- [Word Walls: A Support for Literacy in Secondary School Classrooms](#) - Ideas for use in all curriculum areas including multiple activities for 1) Whole class 2) Small Groups and 3) Individuals. Also has an observation checklist to assess learner mastery
- ["Making Word Walls Work in the Secondary Classroom"](#) - Research-based How-to guide with photos of actual word walls in different curriculum areas. Includes links to other resources.
- [Word Walls in the Secondary Math Class](#)