

Language Activity Pack for word finding

Ideas for Word Finding Activities

1) Describe a word

Commercial games, such as Articulate or Taboo, can be bought. Alternatively, on small pieces of paper write down names of famous people, objects, things, verbs. Each person should try thinking of around twenty words. Fold up each piece of paper and put them in a bowl/container. Takes turns pulling out a piece of paper and describing it to your partner, but don't say the actual word.

2) Categories

Think of a "category" and list as many items as you can that belong to that category. Start off with concrete categories such as animals, vegetables, furniture etc. and progress to abstract categories – such as things which are hot or cold, things that grow, things that are shiny etc.

3) Semantic links

Take an object, person, place etc. and think of as many words as you can which relate to it, e.g.: dog – barks, lead, wag, collar, panting, hairy, etc.

4) Synonyms / antonyms

Think of a word, or choose one from the dictionary / thesaurus and see if you can think of another word which means the same or has a similar meaning. Alternatively, try to think of a word that means the opposite to the word you've selected.

5) Defining words

Select words e.g. from a dictionary, and try to explain their meaning.

6) Word games

Complete crosswords, arrow words etc. found in magazines or puzzle books.

Complete each phrase

1. old and _____new_____
2. shirt and _____
3. questions and _____
4. dustpan and _____
5. needle and _____
6. soap and _____
7. cup and _____
8. pen and _____
9. bread and _____
10. strawberries and _____
11. sun and _____
12. milk and _____
13. hammer and _____
14. name and _____
15. house and _____
16. fingers and _____toes_____
17. meat and _____
18. soup and _____
19. start and _____
20. add and _____
21. multiply and _____
22. night and _____morning_____

Add three words that fit into each category:

	Ship	Bus	Bike
1. car, train	_____	_____	_____
2. satin, silk,	_____	_____	_____
3. elm, maple,	_____	_____	_____
4. boxer, poodle,	_____	_____	_____
5. May, August	March	September	December
	_____	_____	_____
6. Cauliflower, potato,	_____	_____	_____
7. piano, violin,	_____	_____	_____
8. chicken, veal,	_____	_____	_____
9. tie, skirt,	_____	_____	_____
10. China, America,	_____	_____	_____
11. eye, nose,	_____	_____	_____
12. calf, puppy,	_____	_____	_____
13. banana, apricot,	_____	_____	_____
	Red	Blue	Pink
14. yellow, green,	_____	_____	_____
15. eagle, robin,	_____	_____	_____

Provide the category for the words given

1. rainy, sunny *weather*

2. yellow, red _____colours_____

3. piano, guitar _____music_____

4. daisy, tulip _____flowers_____

5. bacon, beef _____meat_____

6. January, May _____

7. trout, salmon _____

8. football, rugby _____

9. screwdriver, wrench _____

10. Thursday, Saturday _____

11. square, circle _____

12. apple, watermelon _____

13. cow, pig _____

14. Spain, England _____

Where am I?

- 1) I am sitting in a small room. My tooth hurts and I am waiting for someone to have a look at it.
- 2) I am standing in a queue, waiting to pay for items in a basket.
- 3) I am standing in a room. I am making a meal.
- 4) I am sitting in a large dark room, watching pictures on a large screen.
- 5) I am sitting at a table. I am ordering food and will have to pay for it before I leave.
- 6) I am moving over water, but I'm not wet.
- 7) I am in a large building with lots of books. I want to borrow a book.
- 8) I am in a shop. I am waiting for a prescription.
- 9) I am sitting outside. I am watching two teams kick a ball up and down a field.
- 10) I have typed a number into a keypad and I am waiting for my money.

Describing words

Describe the following words to a partner without using the word – see if they can guess the word you are describing.

E.g. Pencil: “something you use to write or draw with”

Newspaper

Telephone

Knife

Film

Broom

Angry

Bracelet

Recipe

Hammer

Aspirin

Generating words in categories

List 3 members in the following categories:

1. Things that are cold
2. Things that run
3. Things that shine
4. Things that are soft
5. Things that are sharp
6. Things that are inflatable
7. Things that are green
8. Things that are smooth
9. Things that sink
10. Things that move slowly
11. Things that are wet
12. Things that make noise
13. Things that fly
14. Things that grow

Generating words in categories

List 3 members in the following categories:

1. Things that burn
2. Things that need to be turned on
3. Things that that are small
4. Things that are red
5. Things that need to be mixed
6. Things that that rip
7. Things that that are heavy
8. Things that that are short
9. Things that are bright
10. Things that are little
11. Things that are inexpensive
12. Things that are round
13. Things that turn
14. Things that are hot

Naming Category Members

Name three members of this category:

1. Prime Ministers
2. foreign languages
3. famous actors
4. seasons
5. cheeses
6. bodies of water
7. things you wear on your feet
8. precious stones
9. medication
10. spices
11. school subjects
12. birds
13. comedians
14. things you sleep on
15. liquids
16. things that swim
17. things made of water
18. things in a jungle

Naming Category Members continued...

Name three members of this category:

19. metals
20. kinds of weather
21. things that you carry things in
22. creatures with shells
23. quiet places
24. things that need batteries
25. things that measure
26. things that tell the time
27. things that are shiny
28. things with a blade
29. things that are cold
30. things that are grey
31. things that are painful
32. things that are fluffy
33. things that are soft
34. things that are slippery
35. things that are white
36. things that are sour
37. things that are fizzy

Opposites (Antonyms) – Sheet 1

Write down the opposite of each of the words below.

1) good

2) fat

3) big

4) tall

5) full

6) young

7) open

8) wet

9) hot

10) old

11) happy

12) fast

13) high

14) rich

15) hard

Opposites (Antonyms) – Sheet 2

Write down the opposite of each of the words below.

1) skinny

2) old

3) sad

4) last

5) foolish

6) shiny

7) warm

8) narrow

9) scarce

10) grief

11) dark

12) dangerous

13) clever

14) late

15) long

Opposites (Antonyms) – Sheet 3

Write down the opposite of each of the words below.

- 1) smart
- 2) bad
- 3) ugly
- 4) worst
- 5) challenging
- 6) calm
- 7) sane
- 8) ignorant
- 9) tiny
- 10) bored
- 11) interesting
- 12) mean
- 13) run
- 14) useful
- 15) tame

Opposites (Antonyms) – Sheet 4

Write down the opposite of each of the words below.

- 1) white
- 2) behind
- 3) after
- 4) man
- 5) less
- 6) take
- 7) under
- 8) true
- 9) never
- 10) heavy
- 11) silly
- 12) sit
- 13) wavy
- 14) lost
- 15) uneven

Synonyms – Sheet 1

Write down a word that has a similar meaning to each of the words below.

- 1) unhappy
- 2) drowsy
- 3) slender
- 4) weak
- 5) thin
- 6) famous
- 7) old
- 8) quick
- 9) rich
- 10) nice
- 11) untrue
- 12) large
- 13) glad
- 14) clever
- 15) courteous

Synonyms – Sheet 2

Write down a word that has a similar meaning to each of the words below.

- 1) huge
- 2) modern
- 3) rude
- 4) tough
- 5) wide
- 6) exhausted
- 7) beautiful
- 8) lazy
- 9) speak
- 10) cruel
- 11) midday
- 12) remorse
- 13) nonsense
- 14) stop
- 15) imitate