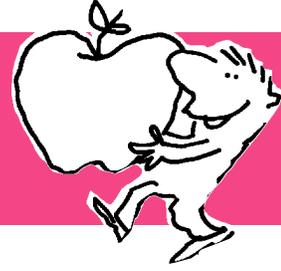


Here's an Instant Activity for November 17, 2003



STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling curriculum that:

1. provides a menu of skill-building activities that range in sophistication to teach critical concepts at a student's own level,
2. uses assessment to gather information to target word study to the specific words each student has not learned from among all previously introduced words in the program, as well as to identify skills not yet mastered,
3. equips teachers with guidelines for spelling expectations in everyday writing that increase as students develop as writers, making the classroom a rehearsal for real-world writing, and
4. proposes multiple opportunities to engage parents in the acquisition of spelling skills with their child.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—it complements the skill-building component in the SPELLING SOURCEBOOK Series, Second Edition.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Approximately Grade 3



PURPOSE

This Instant Activity provides instruction and practice for similes. Learning to write descriptions is important to emerging writers' development. The use of similes is one method writers can employ to create interesting descriptions.

Skills: similes, writing, vocabulary development



SUGGESTED USE

This Instant Activity can be used to extend Activity 1E, Unit 4, or Activity 3A, Unit 8, in Level 3 of the Spelling Sourcebook Series, Second Edition.



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Write on the chalkboard: *as high as a mountain*. Ask a student to read the phrase aloud for the class. Then say: *the building was as high as a mountain*. Discuss how high the building might be if it was "as high as a mountain." Tell students that the description "as high as a mountain" helps to explain the height of the building.

Repeat the activity with: *as quiet as a mouse*.

Then point out that "as high as a mountain" and "as quiet as a mouse" are similes. Similes show how two things are alike, or similar. The words "as" are used in a simile. A simile helps to describe.

Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Have students silently read the directions, and then turn to a partner to explain what they think is expected. Answer questions regarding the directions, as needed. Do the first two together. Then have students complete the activity.



FOLLOW-UP

Here are more similes to discuss, that may not be as obvious as the others:

as clean as a whistle	as cool as a cucumber
as dead as a doornail	as fit as a fiddle
as free as a bird	as sick as a dog
as sly as a fox	as strong as an ox
as pleased as punch	as quick as lightning



FOR MORE

For more activities to teach all the essential skills and concepts, and to develop a total spelling and language-related program, use the Spelling Sourcebook for your grade level.

To learn about the revised Series:

Request our free, on-loan Overview Video by calling 888-WE-SPELL (888-937-7355). The video can also be ordered through our web site: www.sittonspelling.com.

To learn how to use the Spelling Sourcebook Series:

1. Attend a seminar that explains and demonstrates lessons that reflect the Spelling Sourcebook methodology. For more information, visit www.sittonspelling.com. Click on the Training tab at the top of the page, then click on Seminar Schedule.
2. Use the **NEW TUTOR ME** Training Video/CD-ROM for your grade level either on your own or in a small group. Rebecca Sitton guides you through a complete unit, tells you exactly what to do, and why. Set aside about two hours to acquire complete expertise, or learn about each part of a unit as you need it. Invite parents to discover how their child will be learning to spell with the Parent Introduction. Visit www.sittonspelling.com for more information.

To order your SPELLING SOURCEBOOK:

Northwest Textbook Depository
P.O. Box 5608
Portland, OR 97228
800-676-6630
503-639-2559 (fax)

Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name _____, Super Speller

Similes

Read each sentence. Each one uses a simile to describe. Underline the simile. Then write what the sentence means without using any of the words in the simile.

1. The baby is as sweet as honey.

This means that the baby is _____
_____.

2. The land is as flat as a pancake.

This means that the land is _____
_____.

3. Your hands are as cold as ice.

This means that your hands are _____
_____.

4. The big box is as light as a feather.

This means that the big box is _____
_____.

5. The school is as old as the hills.

This means that the school is _____
_____.

6. The man is as mad as a hornet.

This means that the man is _____
_____.