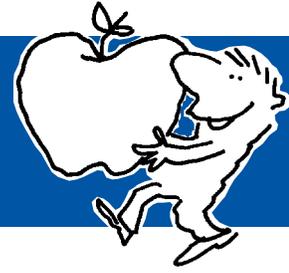

Here's an Instant Activity for February 1, 2010



STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling and word-skill 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 their child's acquisition of spelling skills.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.

Meeting state standards is a priority of Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®. Instant Activities further support skills and concepts reflected in state standards.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Approximately Grade 5



PURPOSE

To provide practice with synonyms—replacing “worn-out” words with more interesting substitutes

Skills: synonyms, spelling, vocabulary development, word analysis, writing



SUGGESTED USE

Use this Instant Activity with the Level 5 Sourcebook (2nd or 3rd Edition), Unit 22, Build Skillful Writers, page 192.



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Demonstrate how writing can be more interesting by using exciting substitutes for “worn-out” words. For example, have students find more exciting synonyms for *worn out*, such as *overused*, *dull*, *boring*, *stale*, *lifeless*, and *overworked*. Remind students that synonyms are words that have similar meanings. Have students brainstorm synonyms for *small* (e.g., *minute*, *tiny*, *little*, *minuscule*, *microscopic*, *petite*, *miniature*). Then divide students into five groups. Give each group chart paper and a different colored marker. Assign each group one of these overused words: *happy*, *eat*, *said*, *old*, *good*. Have students brainstorm and write synonyms for their overused word. Time the groups for about two minutes, and then have the groups exchange charts. Repeat the timed brainstorm. Continue until each group has had a chance to brainstorm synonyms for each worn-out word. Have the class proofread the charts, noting the contributions of each group by pen color. Post the charts on a bulletin board. Encourage students to enliven their writing by using interesting synonyms to replace overused, worn-out words.

Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Discuss the activity to ensure that students know what is expected. Then ask them to complete it at home or at school.



FOLLOW-UP

Have students share their answers to the Instant Activity. Then have them share their stories from the Apple Activity. Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Answers: 1. lively; 2. grumble; 3. indulge; 4. colossal; 5. converting; 6. magnanimous; 7. exasperation; 8. instruct; 9. resolved; 10. powerful; 11. seize; 12. inspiring; 13. abbreviate; 14. soundly; 15. divulge; 16. scheme; 17. motive; 18. vital; 19. gist; 20. outstanding. (Synonym answers will vary.)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®, visit www.epsbooks.com/sittonspelling.

Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name _____, Super Speller

Synonyms, Synonyms Everywhere!

Read each "worn-out" word and the words that follow it. Cross out the word in each set that could NOT be used as a synonym for the "worn-out" word.

1. **mad**: lively—livid—furious
2. **catch**: grumble—grasp—grab
3. **copy**: mimic—imitate—indulge
4. **little**: colossal—diminutive—minute
5. **speaking**: conversing—discussing—converting
6. **great**: magnificent—superb—magnanimous
7. **trip**: excursion—exasperation—expedition
8. **make**: create—construct—instruct
9. **asked**: inquired—resolved—probed
10. **a lot**: abundant—plentiful—powerful
11. **stop**: seize—cease—discontinue
12. **boring**: lackluster—inspiring—dreary
13. **buy**: purchase—abbreviate—acquire
14. **quiet**: silent—soundly—soundless
15. **leave**: depart—divulge—exit
16. **part**: segment—portion—scheme
17. **big**: massive—motive—gargantuan
18. **mean**: cruel—vital—vicious
19. **guess**: gist—suppose—speculate
20. **weird**: peculiar—outlandish—outstanding



Write a story about the most exciting day you remember. Review your story to make sure your writing sparkles! Replace any boring, worn-out words with words that have pizzazz! Share your story with a friend.