

Learning together

The Same or Not the Same?

ACTIVITY #2

SEQUENCE: DEVELOPING VOCABULARY –
THE MEANING OF WORDS – PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to help your child better understand the meaning of a word and accurately define it using the appropriate synonym or antonym, depending on the context



Relevance of the activity

It helps enrich your child's vocabulary in addition to working on the meaning of words.



Supplies

- Your child's list of vocabulary words
- A text or book that they must read
- Objects in your home



LET'S GO!

Explain the activity:



Today, we'll work on understanding the meaning of a word using the appropriate synonym or using an antonym.

Explain why:



When you're having trouble understanding a word, you can use another word that means the same thing, which is called a **synonym**. You can also use a word that means the opposite, an **antonym**, to give some clues to the person with whom you are speaking, for example. This strategy is very useful to express yourself more precisely!

Explain when:



When you are reading or writing, you can use this strategy to understand a new word, to avoid repeating the same words or to be more precise.

Try it together:



Let's start by understanding what a synonym is.

A synonym is like a twin. They are almost the same. It's the same for words: some are very similar and they almost mean the same thing.



Here are some examples of synonyms: For the adjective «nice»: kind, attentive.

Now let's see how they are different from antonyms. An antonym is the opposite of another word. They mean the reverse, or the opposite.

Here are some examples of antonyms: For the verb «love» : detest, hate.

Now that you understand the difference between a synonym and an antonym, here are some examples to help you use this strategy:



To understand the meaning of a new word:

Let's pick a book or magazine and find a word you don't know. We'll try to find another word that means the same thing. Then, we'll read the sentence again to make sure it still makes sense with the new word. Lastly, we'll look it up in the dictionary to check if we chose the right word.



To avoid repetition and be more precise:

When describing your house to a friend, you can use different words instead of just saying «house» over and over. Try words like «home,» «place,» or «residence.» And you can be even more specific: is it an apartment, a condo, a single-family home, a cottage, a mobile home, or a farmhouse? This way, we use different words that mean the same thing but give more exact details.



Quick tips!

If your child is having trouble recalling a word, you can provide them with a short list of words from which they can choose the word that has the same meaning; or some clues, such as a description, to help them make the right associations.

