

Vocabulary Whirl

This strategy helps students to become more familiar with vocabulary words.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Prepare sets of 7-10 index cards with one vocabulary task per card. Make enough sets so that there are enough cards for each student to have one. Suggested tasks include:
 - Spell the word
 - Add a prefix
 - Add a suffix
 - Define the word
 - Use the word in a sentence that contains context clues
 - Give a synonym for the word
 - Give an antonym for the word
 - _____ is like _____ because _____
 - Give a category in which the word belongs
 - Give a non-definition clue for the word
 - Relate the word to subject-area knowledge
 - Give the part of speech of the word
 - Change the word to a different part of speech
 - Act out the word
 - Give multiple meanings for the word
2. Prepare a list of vocabulary words.

Lesson Plan:

1. Divide the students into groups of approximately 8.
2. Distribute the cards – one to each student.
3. Students turn the cards face down and mingle with each other. Every time they pass each other they swap cards. After a few seconds, have them stop and partner with the student that is closest to them. If the number of participants is uneven, allow one group of three.
4. Call out a vocabulary word. Each student follows the directions on his/her card. No one should write on the card.
5. Ask if there are any questions or problems. Resolve these.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 as many times as you wish. Give a different word each time.

This strategy was adapted from *Word Works Cracking Vocabulary's Code* presented by Daniel Moirao Ed. D at Fuquay-Varina High School, March 6, 2008