



Silly Sentences

New Vocabulary Acquisition

Suggested Time: 10 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Review vocabulary definitions
- Write a sentence using the word and conveying the meaning of the word clearly.
- Share the sentence with classmates.

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Vocabulary (Lists from Reading Selections)

Rationale/Research Base

Creating a silly sentence while using a new vocabulary word correctly is a fun and social way for students to have memorable experiences with new vocabulary.

Optimal Application Notes:

Choose a list of vocabulary words that are meaningful or relevant to the unit or objective. Words can be abstract or concrete.

Before:

- Provide students with the basic definition of the words.
- Let students know they will present their silly sentence to classmates.

During:

- Have pairs of students review the vocabulary word(s) they are assigned.
- Ask students to ensure they have an understanding of the vocabulary words and can explain them in their own words.
- For each word, students should create a silly sentence that captures the essence of its meaning.
- Ask students to write a sentence that makes their understanding of the word very clear, so much so that one could guess the meaning of the word even without knowing the definition.

Assemble and Share:

- Once everyone is ready, have participants share their sentences with small groups or the class.
- Students can guess the meaning of the word based on the sentence.
- Encourage group members to ask questions and share their thoughts on the interpretations of their sentences.

Wrap it Up!:

- Wrap up the exercise by reviewing some of the nuances of the sentences to remember new vocabulary terms.
- Discuss how this exercise enhanced participants' understanding of the vocabulary and how these words fit into the larger unit concepts or objectives.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Check basic comprehension of the vocabulary words' definitions prior to asking students to sketch. Translations and cognates might also be used to support comprehension of the literal meaning.
- Review first drafts and brainstorming notes and ask students to explain their thinking.
- Provide a range of vocabulary words over time for students to choose from to differentiate based on readiness. Some students might already have a strong grasp of certain words and not others, so they should have an opportunity to complete the activity with the words that are new to them.
- Use pairs instead of groups.

Silly Sentences

Instructions: Reinforce your vocabulary acquisition and understanding through the creation of silly and memorable sentences.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Make sure you understand the meaning of each word.
- Brainstorm different scenarios or situations where you can incorporate the vocabulary words into silly sentences. Consider funny situations, absurd scenarios, or nonsensical combinations of words.

Guidelines for Silly Sentences:

- Create Silly Sentences: Use your writing materials to create silly sentences using the vocabulary words. Mix and match the words to create humorous combinations that make you laugh.
- Be Creative: Don't be afraid to be creative and imaginative with your silly sentences. Experiment with wordplay, puns, and unexpected twists to create memorable and entertaining sentences.
- Share with Peers: Share your silly sentences with your classmates, either in person or through digital platforms. Take turns reading aloud your sentences and enjoy the laughter and amusement they bring.
- Engage in Discussion: Engage in discussions with your classmates about the silly sentences you've created. Share insights, exchange ideas, and appreciate the creativity and humor of each other's sentences.
- Reflect on Learning: Reflect on how creating and sharing silly sentences has helped you deepen your understanding of the vocabulary words. Think about how humor can make learning more enjoyable and memorable.
- Review and Reinforce: Use the insights gained from the silly sentences activity to reinforce your understanding of the vocabulary words. Review any words that were challenging or unfamiliar and seek clarification as needed.

Silly Sentences

3rd – 5th

Instructions: Get better at learning words by creating silly sentences to make the words more memorable.

Review and Brainstorm:

- Think about the new words you've learned, what they mean, and what type of word they are (like a noun, verb, or adjective).
- Brainstorm different situations where you can use the vocabulary words in silly sentences. Think about funny situations, strange scenarios, or nonsensical combinations of words.

Guidelines for Silly Sentences:

- Create Silly Sentences: Use your writing materials to create silly sentences using the vocabulary words. Mix and match the words to write funny combinations that make you laugh.
- Be Creative: Don't be afraid to use your creativity and imagination with your silly sentences. Experiment with wordplay, puns, and unexpected twists to create entertaining sentences you and your classmates will remember.
- Share with Peers: Share your silly sentences with your classmates, either in person or through digital platforms. Take turns reading your sentences and enjoy the laughter and amusement they bring.
- Engage in Discussion: Engage in discussions with your classmates about the silly sentences you've written. Share ideas and new connections while you appreciate the creativity and humor of each other's sentences.
- Reflect on Learning: Reflect on how creating and sharing silly sentences has helped you understand the vocabulary words. Think about how humor can make learning more enjoyable and memorable.
- Review and Reinforce: Use the information gained from the silly sentences activity to reinforce your understanding of the vocabulary words. Review any words that were challenging or unfamiliar and ask for an explanation if you need it.