



# Word Sort

Building word knowledge and conceptual understanding using key vocabulary

*Suggested Time: 15 minutes*

## Student Tasks:

- Review Vocabulary List
- Brainstorm common traits among words based on sorting categories
- Play Word Sort

## Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Vocabulary

## Rationale/Research Base

The use of Word Sorts as a vocabulary strategy in a classroom is grounded in promoting conceptual understanding, active engagement, critical thinking, and differentiation, which contribute to vocabulary development.

## 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:

- Determine the criteria for sorting the words. Common sorting criteria include:
  - Meaning, spelling patterns (e.g., grouping words with common prefixes, suffixes, or root words), and parts of speech (e.g., sorting nouns, verbs, adjectives).
- Provide a space or platform where students can sort the words.
- Create word cards or lists for each vocabulary word.
- Explain the purpose of the word sort to the students.

### During:

- Give students dedicated time to sort the remaining words independently or in small groups.
- Encourage them to discuss their choices and reasoning with their peers.

### After:

- Facilitate a class discussion where students can share their sorting decisions. Encourage them to explain why they chose specific categories for certain words.

## Scaffolds & Supports:

- While circulating, offer support and guidance as needed, addressing any questions or misconceptions that may arise.
- Consider limiting students to only find words that would fall in one category as opposed to all.
- Consider a challenge where students create their own categories to sort the words.

# Word Sort

**Instructions:** Enhance your understanding and mastery of vocabulary words through categorization.

## Review and Brainstorm

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech.
- Review the sorting categories your teacher provided.
- Brainstorm different connections the words have to one another.

## Guidelines for Word Sorts:

- Begin sorting the vocabulary words into categories based on their meaning, part of speech, or any other relevant criteria. You can create categories such as synonyms, antonyms, words related to a specific topic, or words with similar prefixes/suffixes.
- Justify Categories: As you sort the words, think critically about why you are placing each word in a particular category. Be prepared to explain your reasoning.
- Discuss and Reflect: Once you have completed the sorting activity, discuss your choices with a partner or in a small group. Share your categories and the reasoning behind them. Reflect on any words that were challenging to categorize and discuss alternative options.

## Extension Activity (Optional):

- For an additional challenge, try creating your own categories and sorting criteria for the vocabulary words. This will further deepen your understanding and engagement with the words.

# Word Sort

3rd – 5th

**Instructions:** Improve your knowledge and use of new words by sorting them into groups.

## 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).
- Think about the groups your teacher talked about to sort your words.

## Guidelines for Word Sorts:

- Start putting the words into groups based on what they mean or how they're used. You can make groups for words that mean the same thing, words that are opposite, or even words that are about the same topic.
- Think about why you're putting each word in a group. Be ready to tell why you chose that group for each word.
- Justify Categories: After you finish sorting, talk with a friend or in a small group about your groups. Share why you put each word where you did.
- Discuss and Reflect: Think about any words that were tricky to sort. Talk with a classmate about other ways you could have sorted them.

## Extension Activity (Optional):

- Try making up your own groups and ways to sort the words. This will help you understand the words even better!