
VISUAL THESAURUS LESSON PLANS **STUDENT WORKBOOK**



LESSON 2:

EXPLORING DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE WITH DIFFERENT PARTS OF SPEECH**OBJECTIVE:**

Sometimes we think that only adjectives can be used to improve our descriptive writing, but we can expand our word choices of nouns, verbs, and adverbs to improve writing as well. The Visual Thesaurus can be adapted to help you choose new words in any category of speech. Descriptive language should be used carefully though, so that your writing is still clear and not over-done with flowery description.

In this lesson, you will write a description of a picture or your class environment, identify parts of speech and use the Visual Thesaurus to explore different word choices for the words you originally chose. You will then re-write your description or create a story using the new words you've found.



PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1 Choose a picture from a magazine or book. If none is available, look out a window or around the room you're sitting in.
- 2 In a word processor or on paper, write for 5 minutes using as many words, phrases, and sentences about the picture or scene that you can. These can include colors, textures, actions, people, animals, etc. Need some questions to get you started? How about these: What do you see? What are people doing? How do they feel? What's the weather or temperature like?

A cartoon illustration of a person with short, wavy hair and a small bow in it, holding a large rectangular sign that says "INTRODUCTION" in capital letters. The person is smiling and looking towards the viewer. The sign is held with both hands, and the word "INTRODUCTION" is written in a simple, hand-drawn style. The background is plain white.

- 3 Now, read through your words/phrases/sentences and underline the nouns, circle the verbs, and put brackets around adjectives and adverbs. Create a list below:

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Adverbs
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

- 4 Choose a category to start from. Type a word into the Enter a Word box or use the Drag and Drop function of the Visual Thesaurus to copy the words from your text. Now, let's begin exploring the word connections through some questions.

- a) Look at the *Meanings List (Each colored bar represents a part of speech, with meanings listed underneath, if applicable) in the right column. Does this word have connections in all the parts of speech (Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs, Adverbs)?



*Meanings List with color-coded Parts of Speech

Which parts show more connections than others (for example, do you get lots of adjective and adverbs, but no nouns or verbs)?

- b) Follow three of the vocabulary links to new words. Write the words and their definitions on your paper or type into your text document.

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

- c) Repeat these steps for 2 words from each of your categories above.

Noun 1: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

d) Noun 2: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

e) Verb 1: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

f) Verb 2: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

g) Adjective 1: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

h) Adjective 2: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

i) Adverb 1: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

j) Adverb 2: _____ Related Parts of Speech: _____

Connecting Words: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

Word: _____ Definition: _____

- ④ Write or type some sentences that use your new words in place of your original sentences or phrases. What do you think of these sentences? Do they make more sense than your original sentences? Are they funny? What “feels” different about these new phrases?

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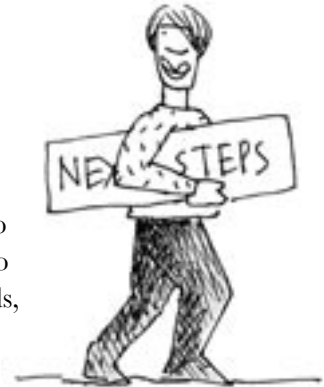
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PART 2: NEXT STEPS

- 1 Write a story about the picture or scene you chose using your new vocabulary words. Be careful in your writing and editing to choose words that are descriptive, but accurate and clear. Try to balance making your writing interesting by including new words, but not “overusing” descriptive words. Too many descriptive words can make your writing difficult to read!



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