
VISUAL THESAURUS LESSON PLANS **STUDENT WORKBOOK**



LESSON 1:

**INTRODUCTION TO THE VISUAL THESAURUS:
WORDS HAVE MULTIPLE MEANINGS****OBJECTIVE:**

A thesaurus, and other word reference materials, can help you gain more from the richness of language. You can learn new vocabulary, understand how words are interrelated, and be inspired to incorporate a wide range of words into your writing. Good word choice can improve your writing by adding interest and clarity, as you gain the ability to describe things more specifically or with more detail.

The Visual Thesaurus (VT) is one way to explore words and their meanings. In this lesson, you will explore adjectives and verbs to discover multiple meanings to common words. You may be surprised at the range of words that can be used to express a simple word or idea. Then, you will write sentences or a story using the new words you have found.



PART 1: INTRODUCTION

- ① Choose one or more of the following commonly used adjectives. First, brainstorm about what the word means: How would you define it? What do you think of when you use this word? Can you come up with a few synonyms for the word?



GOOD	DISGUSTING	BIG	MEAN
UGLY	BAD	DELICIOUS	BEAUTIFUL
LITTLE	NICE		

word:

define:

ideas about word:

synonyms:

word:

define:

ideas about word:

synonyms:



- 2 Type the word you chose into the VT's Enter a Word box. If you've chosen more than one word to explore, continue through the steps completely for the first word and then move to the next word.
- 3 Turn off (de-select) the noun, verb, and adverb parts of speech by clicking on the OFF button
- 4 The first definition in the Adjectives box is the basic definition of the word you chose. Now, let's explore some of the other meanings and uses for the word you chose! Place the cursor on the next five definitions in the Adjective box and look at how the word you chose is used in different ways. Do you ever use this word like any of these examples?

- 5 Write five sentences, each using the word in a different way. (In each sentence, the word should have a different meaning.)

word:

sentences:

1

.....

2

.....

3

.....

4

.....

5

.....

PART 2: NEXT STEPS

- ① Using the same word as above, let's explore some words that are related to it. First, choose three words that are directly connected by the VT to your word (big, dark lines with no bends in them show direct connections).

Write the three words you'd like to explore below:

word 1:

word 2:

word 3:

- ② Now, click the first word you'd like to explore. What happened? What sort of ideas does this word seem to be about? Repeat for the other two words.

word 1:

Ideas/Related Meanings:

.....

word 2:

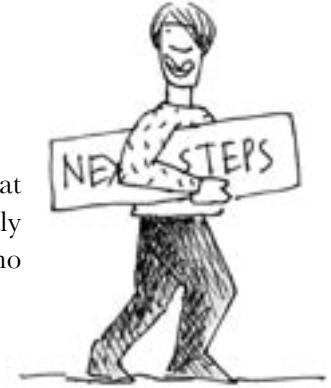
Ideas/Related Meanings:

.....

word 3:

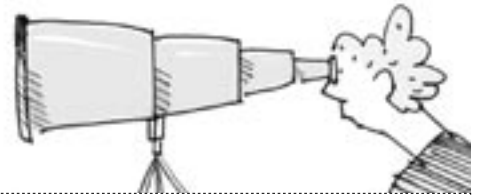
Ideas/Related Meanings:

.....



PART 3: EXPLORING VERBS

- ① Repeat the above lesson using the one or more of the following VERBS --only this time, de-select the noun, adjective, and adverb parts of speech.



RUN	WALK	SLEEP	READ	MOVE
EAT	STOP	WRITE	DRINK	GO

verb:

define:

ideas about word:

synonyms:

sentences: 1

.....

2

.....

3

.....

4

.....

- ② Using the same word as above, let's explore some words that are related to it. First, choose three words that are directly connected by the VT to your word (big, dark lines with no bends in them show direct connections).

Write the three words you'd like to explore below:

verb 1

verb 2

verb 3

- ③ Now, click the first word you'd like to explore. What happened? What sort of ideas does this word seem to be about? Repeat for the other two words.

verb 1

Ideas/Related Meanings

.....

verb 2

Ideas/Related Meanings

.....

verb 3

Ideas/Related Meanings

.....

PART 4: CHALLENGE

Write additional sentences or a story that incorporates as much of the new vocabulary you've identified as you can. Try describing a familiar object with the new words or using familiar words in new ways! Repeat the lesson with additional adjectives or verbs from the list if you need more ideas.

A cartoon character wearing a helmet and holding a sign that says "CHALLENGE!!". The character is standing on the right side of the page, and the sign is held up to the right. The rest of the page is blank with horizontal dotted lines.