

Teaching to the Common Core with the Visual Thesaurus

If you are wondering about how to incorporate vocabulary instruction into your teaching, let the Common Core Standards be your guide and let the Visual Thesaurus be your tool! Here is a breakdown of the Vocabulary Acquisition and Use Standards for Grades 6-10, along with lesson and activity ideas that you can use to support your students in meeting these standards.

- **L.X.4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words or phrases based on *reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.**
 - Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Lessons:

[The Power of Words in "Charlotte's Web"](#)

[A Victorian Vocabulary Challenge](#)

[Salinger and the Vocabulary of the Vernacular](#)

["To Be or Not to Be" and the VT](#)

- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.

Lessons:

[Body Language: Vocabulary Rooted in Latin Anatomy](#)

[Rooting One's Way to Meaning](#)

Wordshop article:

[Prefixes: Windows into Unfamiliar Words](#)

- Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., *analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy*).

Wordshop articles:

[Sorting it Out: Word Sorts for Secondary School Students](#)

[Seeing Words as Chameleons](#)

- **Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.**

Lessons:

[Say What? Mastering Some Hard-to-Pronounce Words](#)
[Spanish-English Cognates in the ELL Classroom: Friends or Foes?](#)
[Making Sense of Homographs](#)
[Mad-Libbing Your Way Into Modern Poetry](#)

Wordshop article:

[Adverbs: A Horror Story?](#)

- **Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).**

Lessons:

[Story Impressions: Judging a Book by its Key Words](#)
[From Name Stories to Word Stories](#)
[Using Words as a Way into Rick Riordan's "The Lightning Thief"](#)
[Math Words with Multiple Meanings](#)

Wordshop article:

[SAT Reading Scores Keep Declining: What Should Teachers Do?](#)

- **L.X.5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.**

- **Interpret figures of speech in context.**

Lessons:

[Figurative Language in Toni Morrison's "A Mercy"](#)
[Learning Idioms in ESL](#)

Wordshop article:

[Dissecting a Simile with VocabGrabber](#)

- **Use the relationship between particular words to better understand each of the words.**

Lessons:

[It's Opposite Day](#)
[Introducing Synonyms to Early Writers](#)

[Clicking your Way to Poetry: Composing Word Association Poems with the Visual Thesaurus](#)

Wordshop articles:

[Getting Beyond the Definition](#)

[How Lewis Carroll Would Feel About Jeggings](#)

- Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions).

Lesson:

[Shades of Meaning](#)

Wordshop article:

[Getting at Connotation by Interviewing a Word](#)

- **L.X.6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.**

Domain-specific Vocabulary Lessons:

[Water, Water, Everywhere](#)

[The Continents and Oceans of the World](#)

[VocabGrabbing the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution](#)

[Branching Out With the U.S. Government](#)

[Words That Hold Court](#)

[Concept-Mapping the Key Terms of the Bill of Rights](#)

[Taking Apart the Top 25 Social Studies -Isms](#)

[The Three M's of Statistics: Mode, Median, Mean](#)

[Number Types: Where Vocabulary Meets Numbers](#)

[Using Key Words to Unlock Math Word Problems](#)

[Know Your Polygons!](#)

[The Mighty Elements](#)

[Vocabulary Bursting with Energy](#)

[What's Your Genus? Scientific Classification and the VT](#)

[Jargon-Busting Words of the Workplace](#)

[Making Sense of Liquid Measurement](#)

[Eating Right with a Little Help from the VT](#)

Wordshop article:

[VocabGrabbing Technical Jargon](#)