

Unit Outline – Using the Thesaurus

Related Virginia SOL: 3.7 – The student will demonstrate comprehension of information from a variety of print resources.

a) Use dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, and other reference books, including online reference materials.

Day 1 – What can I find in a thesaurus?

Objectives: After lecture/activity, student should be able to:

- List the types of words found in a thesaurus (guide words, synonyms, antonyms)
- Describe how to use guide words to look up words in a thesaurus

Activity:

- Explore a thesaurus. Discuss how guide words in a thesaurus are used in the same way as a dictionary

Assessment: Informal – questioning during lesson review/during the lesson

Day 2 – What are synonyms?

Objectives: After lecture/activity, students will be able to:

- Define a synonym
- List the synonyms of words by using a thesaurus
- Explain how knowing the synonyms of words could be helpful in their writing

Activity:

- Review using guide words
- Look up 2-3 words, and list the synonyms. Prompt students to notice that the synonyms have similar meanings to the words they looked up.
- Relate this to writing (especially por quoi tales). Remind students about using new words in their writing. Can the thesaurus help you do this? How?

Assessment: Informal – questioning during lesson/review, looking at what students are doing during activity

Day 3 – What are antonyms?

Objectives: After lecture/activity, students will be able to:

- Define an antonym
- List antonyms of a word using a thesaurus
- Describe how antonyms can be helpful in our writing

Activity:

- Review using guide words and synonyms
- Look up 2-3 words, and list the antonyms. Prompt students to notice that the antonyms have the opposite meaning of the word that they looked up.
- Relate to writing – how can using antonyms help me in my writing?

Assessment: Informal – questioning during lesson/review, looking at what students are doing during activity

Day 4 – Can we use every synonym or antonym that we find?

Objectives: After lecture/activity, students will be able to:

- Choose an appropriate synonym/antonym to fit the context of a sentence

Activity:

- Review definitions of synonyms, antonyms. Review use on guide words in a thesaurus
- Group work – students fill in the blank with the appropriate synonym/antonym.
- Review these, discuss how the context of a sentence will determine which synonym/antonym we pick.

Assessment: Group work will be analyzed to determine if students need more practice in choosing appropriate words. Teacher will circulate throughout the classroom to determine if students are using guide words appropriately to find words.