

Semantic Features Analysis

Objective

Students will draw on prior knowledge and use discussion to elicit information about word meaning.

Materials

Semantic Features Analysis Grid handout

Overview

Provide explicit instruction on specific words with multiple opportunities for practice.

Activity

1. Distribute the handout. This handout features an example semantic features analysis grid for vocabulary words that relate to the concept of transportation.
2. Have students mark an *X* for the characteristics that apply to each example. The first one has been completed as an example.
3. Review the answers and discuss the characteristics that students missed. For example, students might not realize that camels use fuel (food).
4. Develop similar charts for other vocabulary words and concepts.

Adapted from Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. (2009). *Teacher reading academies*. Austin, TX: Author.

Semantic Features Analysis Grid

	Air	Land	Water	Wheels	Motor/ Engine	Carry Cargo	Use Fuel
Car		X		X	X	X	X
Airplane							
Ship							
Train							
Bicycle							
Camel							
Motorcycle							