

Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action by acting out the meanings.

Shades-of-Meaning Charades

Game One

1. Prepare word cards from the word groups below—one word per card. Keep word groups together with a paperclip or rubber band.
2. Divide the group or class into two teams.
3. Three or four students from one team pick a word group. These students put the words in order from weakest to strongest. Then each student picks a word to act out.
4. Each student has 30 seconds to act out a word while their team guesses. The student can only use actions to act out the word—no talking is allowed. If the team hasn't guessed the word after 30 seconds, it is the next student's turn.
5. Once all the students have acted out their words, the team has to say what these words have in common.
6. Alternate between the two teams. Teams receive one point for each word they guess.

Game Two

1. Prepare word cards from the word groups below—one word per card. Keep groups of words together with a paperclip or rubber band.
2. Divide the group or class into two teams.
3. Three or four students from one team pick a word group. (Whisper the words to the students if they are not able to read them on their own.)
4. The students have two minutes to act out all the words from their word group while their team guesses. They can only use actions to act out the word—no talking is allowed. At the end of the two minutes, the team has to say what the words have in common.
5. Alternate between the two teams. Teams receive one point for each word they guess.

Word Groups

walk, skip, stroll, march

look, peek, stare, glare

nibble, munch, eat, gobble

awake, sleepy, tired, asleep

sip, drink, gulp

whispered, said, yelled

pleased, happy, excited

tap, knock, thump, pound

toss, throw, pitch