

Teaching ideas

Magical Matching

Learning opportunities

To add common prefixes to root words.

Organisation

This game is useful for whole class teaching but is also ideal for children to play independently.



Teaching ideas (whole class)

Click on any card to turn it over. Ask a child to read the word and get the whole class to repeat it. Ask children to put hands up if they think this word has already had a prefix (un- or dis-) added.

If the word already includes the prefix, ask the children what the root word would be. Click to try to find this new word.

If the word does not have the prefix added, ask the children to show you with an action (e.g. making a **u** or **d** shape with their hands) whether they think *un-* or *dis-* will be added. Ask children to say the new word with the chosen prefix added. Click to try to find this new word.

Repeat with several cards until you start identifying matches between words. Ask the class to do something (hands up, make a beeping sound, clap, link fingers, shout "Match" etc) when they think they know where to find two matching cards.

When you have found a pair of words ask the class to repeat both words and give a thumbs up if they are confident that they know what they mean or thumbs down if they are unsure.

Try to find a balance between keeping the game moving quickly and sometimes taking a little more time to ensure that children know what the words mean and understand how the addition of these prefixes changes meaning.

Some word pairs can be easily acted out e.g. plug/unplug, comfort/discomfort etc. If this is the case, you may wish to ask the children to quickly act these out to reinforce the change in meaning that is made by adding the prefix.

With unfamiliar word pairs it may be simplest to tell the children (or act out) what the words mean.

Top Tips

Ensure the children know that good readers constantly ask themselves whether they understand what they are reading. Create a classroom ethos where children feel comfortable saying that they don't know what a word means.

Try displaying unfamiliar word pairs around the classroom and encourage children to use them.

You may need to build in some discussion about the fact that words can be used in different ways. E.g. **undress** is the opposite of **dress** (the verb), it is not the opposite of **dress** (the noun).

Putting words into sentences and acting things out can help children to think about the relevant meaning of the root word before asking them to think about how the prefix alters that meaning.