Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week: Categorize

What?

Academic Vocabulary words are frequently used in scholastic and professional settings. Comprehension of these words is critical for student success. If they lack the understanding of these words, it can negatively affect their performance on assessments, tasks or assignments, and the ability to effectively communicate in discussions.

Why?

Categorizing is an important Academic Vocabulary word for all students to know since our brains operate by placing new information into categories, essentially, "chunking" that new information, connecting it to concepts previously learned, and being able to recall it. The process also builds language by enabling students to describe the new information, its function, and how it relates to other information.

How?

Students, like adults, learn by repeatedly practicing new concepts. To learn new vocabulary, they must have multiple opportunities to practice, at school as well as at home, to categorize and cement the new knowledge into long-term memory for on-demand recall.

Word of the Week Activity:

1. Complete the graphic organizer and add to the "Words my Way Journal" to learn all about the word: Categorize (slide #13).

2. Choose at least one Categories Activity from slide #6 to engage students with either in whole group, small group, or individually.

Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week Home Connection: Categorize

Dear Parents,

This week's Academic Vocabulary word is: Categorize. Your child has actually been learning how to "categorize" since infancy, however as kids grow so does their need to expand their higher level cognitive thinking skills. Categorizing is a great way to improve mental organizational skills, build language skills, and to make connections to new information. To prevent our brains from overloading with new information, we "chunk" information into groups, or categories, in our minds. When we build categorization skills, we're enabling our mind to take new information and organize it appropriately so that we're able to recall that new information as needed. As students grow, so does their need to expand their ability to describe new information and its function. Without that, students would not be able to understand new concepts, let alone be able to apply the new knowledge in any way.

Here are some activities that you can do with your child at home to build their categorizational skills:

- **Descriptions:** Practice with them how to describe it (how do we say this), how to apply it (what is this used for; when should we use this; or, when should we not use this), and how to make connections to it (what does this remind you of; have you heard of something like this before; or, are there other things similar to this.)
- **Start a collection:** Collect things that are a certain color, shape, or function and keep them displayed. Add to the collection periodically or make new ones.
- **Same and different:**(compare and contrast) Help your child learn about different classifications that scientists use to help them organize information by describing how things are the same or different and if they would go together in the same group or a different group.
- **Riddle me this:** Use riddles to help your child gain practice with "rules," which are part of patterns and categorizing. For example, "I am a shape. I have four sides. Each side is the same length." Good listening and a growing ability to sort through information will help your child solve the riddle correctly.
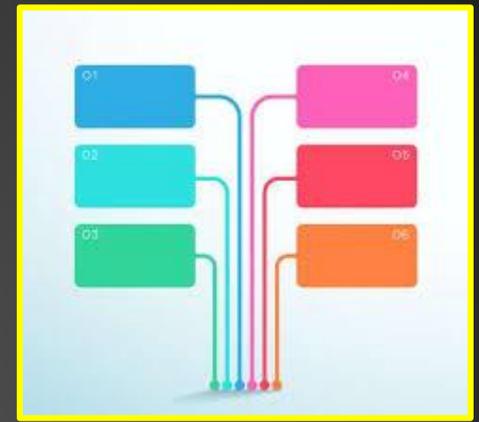
Categorize

cat·e·go·rize
ˈkadəɡəˌrīz

Latin & Greek Roots:
*category= categoria (latin), kategorie (greek) "assert or name"
*ize= Late Latin -*izare*, from Greek -*izein*, a verb-forming element denoting the doing of the noun or adjective to which it is attached.

Definition:

1. : to put (someone or something) into a group of similar people or things; to place into categories

// *The House of Reveur is categorized as, "The Dreamers."*

Synonyms:

Similar
Like
Connected
Group
Grade
Related
Set
Grouping
Sort
Order
Organize
Classification
Categorization
Type
Representation
Of the same: kind, make, model, class,
breed, bracket, list, genre, division, rank

Antonyms:

Dissimilar
Unrelated
Different
Disorder
Unlike
Disconnected
Deviation
Stray
Departure
Misrepresentation
Not of the same: kind, make, model,
class, breed, bracket, list, genre,
division, rank

Let's practice using sentence stems for "category"

I can categorize _____.

I can place _____ in the category of _____.

_____ is in the category of _____ because _____.

Category of Categories Activities list:

- All of the activities created can be incorporated into your instruction in a multitude of ways such as an intro to a new topic, a brain break, a morning meeting conversation, a hands on practice or an informal assessment.
- All of the activities are setup to be opened as copies so they are yours to modify as you see fit to meet your curricular needs
- Each activity has examples from different grades and subjects so there's literally something for everyone!

Slide #7- Let's Play Categories
Slide #8- Category Hunt
Slide #9- Let's Sort it, Category Sorts
Slide #10- What's in a Name?
Slide #11- Which one doesn't belong and Why?
Slide #12- Category graphic organizer for paper pencil practice

Let's Play Categories!

1. Wild animals
2. Musical Instruments
3. Favorite snacks
4. Sports
5. Rainy day games
6. Clothing items
7. School supplies
8. Television shows
9. Youtube channels
10. Holidays
11. Favorite books
12. Things that start with the letter "S"
13. Ways to make the number 10
14. Nouns
15. Similes
16. Famous historical figures
17. Things that are rectangular in shape
18. *Choose your own category!*

Choose a category just for fun or link it to your curriculum. Play Categories as a Brainbreak, a component of your morning meeting, or as an exit ticket for your lesson. The possibilities are endless!

Category Hunt!

1. Something that is round
2. Something that is blue
3. Something that is translucent
4. Something that is shiny
5. Something that starts with the letter, "T"
6. Something that rhymes with, "mat"
7. Something that is 2-Dimensional or flat
8. Something that will complete this simile: "as light as a ____"
9. Something that is the opposite of "huge"
10. Something that is cold
11. Something that has 2 syllables (ex: car-ton)
12. Something that is special to you
13. *Choose your own category!*

Choose a category just for fun or link it to your curriculum. Play Categories as a Brainbreak, a component of your morning meeting, or as an exit ticket for your lesson. The possibilities are endless!

Let's Sort it out! Category Sorts

Directions: Ask students to categorize the items in the sorts and to justify their reasoning for placing the items where they did.

Sentence Stem: _____ belongs in this category because _____.

Let's Sort it out Jamboard Link

Create your own slides to align with your curriculum or play games for Brain Breaks!

What's in a Name?

Directions: Choose objects, words, or pictures and show to students and ask them to identify the category. Require students to justify their answers.

Key for Jamboard slides:
1. Blank example page
2. Science terminology
3. Music terminology
4. Authors
5. Historical Figures
6. Technology terminology
7. Academic Vocabulary
8. Social Emotional Vocabulary
9. Community Members pictures
10. Needs vs. Wants pictures
11. Emotions Emojis
12. Punctuation

What's in a Name Jamboard Link

Which one doesn't belong and Why?

Directions: Ask students to identify the item that does not belong in the category and to justify their answer.

Sentence Stem: _____ does not belong because _____.

This game can be tied into any curriculum. Use it as an inquiry based activity for the beginning of a unit or as a review at the end. Modify as you see fit!

What Doesn't Belong and Why Jamboard Link

Name: _____

Category Sort

Directions: Identify which objects go into which category.

Category #1: _____

Category #2: _____

Category #3: _____

Category #4: _____

Definition:

Write a sentence using the Academic Vocabulary Word:

Word:

Illustration:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

(Greek or Latin) Roots of the word: