

Early and Often: Fun Vocabulary Routines

Activity	How to Do It	Time Needed
<p>Fly Swatter</p> <p>Need: 3 or 4 fly swatters White board with words listed</p>	<p>Write words on whiteboard. Divide class into teams (3 or 4). Give each team a fly swatter. 1 member of each team lines up a few feet in front of and facing the board. Give a definition, students rush to the board and swat the correct word.</p>	<p>10-15+ minutes or more</p>
<p>White Board Check-In</p> <p>Need: Small White Boards White Board Markers Erasers</p>	<p>Hand out a white board to each child or table group or team. Give each child/team a marker and eraser. Give a definition and have students write the word or vice versa (give word, they write definition).</p>	<p>10-15+ minutes</p>
<p>Vocabulary Bingo</p> <p>Need: Blank Bingo Boards Torn up paper for markers</p>	<p>Hand out a blank bingo boards and have students fill in each square with a vocabulary word. Pass out bingo board markers (torn up paper). Pull words from a bin (I keep all the words for the year in a pencil case, putting them in as we learn them)—give the definition and have students cover the word.</p>	<p>10-15 minutes to get a few rounds in</p>
<p>Writing a Paragraph</p>	<p>Have students take out a sheet of paper . Give them 10 or so words from a current unit Have students complete a quick-write (writing as fast as you can for 7-10 minutes) using all of the words from the unit. Take some time to share out examples.</p>	<p>10-20 minutes</p>
<p>Sentence Strip Race</p> <p>Need: words on one card and definitions on another card. Optional: pictures of word/definition</p>	<p>Students can work in teams to begin and then as individuals on another day. This is an excellent small group activity. 1. Remove word only and time how long to place word with correct picture and definition. 2. Remove the meaning only (same thing). 3. Remove all and time the activity. You will be amazed at how important the picture is as a mental model of the word.</p>	<p>Depending on group size 10-15 minutes</p>

<p>Cold-Call Check In With No Opt-Out</p> <p>Need: popsicle sticks with student names OR some other way of pulling names randomly</p>	<p>At the start of class or at the end, pull popsicle sticks (with student names on them) and ask the child the definition of one of the words. After student answers, ask the class if he/she is correct. If yes, have class repeat the definition. If no, ask someone else, then have first child repeat the definition, then have whole class repeat the definition.</p>	<p>5-10 minutes</p>
<p>Vocabulary Charades</p> <p>Need: Words on slips o paper in a bucket/bin</p>	<p>Have a student pull a word from the box and silently act it out. Class guesses. Have class repeat word and definition. Student chooses next person to act out a new word.</p>	<p>5-15+ minutes</p>
<p>Synonym Swap</p>	<p>Have students read the sentence that the word is used in. Give each group 5 minutes to determine as many synonyms for the word as they can. Each group can have the same word or a different word.</p>	<p>15+ minutes</p>
<p>Morphology of Words</p>	<p>Have students come up with how each word could be used differently depending on tense or part of speech. Use the correct form in various sentences.</p>	<p>15+ minutes</p>