

# PAT Teaching Resources Centre

## Reading comprehension

Teaching activity: **Using different words (+ extension)**

Curriculum code: ACELY1680

Skill: Retrieving directly stated information

Achievement band: 100–109

## ACTIVITIES

### Learning intention

For students to be able to use different words to say the same thing.

### Explain

to students that one way to reword information is to replace key words with words or phrases that mean the same thing.

### Use

the example that if the teacher asked the class to tidy the room up at the end of the day, the teacher might use the sentence: It is time to clean up.

### Point out

that the sentence includes two pieces of information: time and cleaning.

### Ask

students to work with peers to say this sentence in other ways without using the words 'time' or 'clean'. The students should try to use different words or phrases in each sentence. For example:

- Please tidy up now.
- Stop what you are doing and put your mess in the bin.
- Put everything away now, including your rubbish.
- You need to finish now and leave the classroom looking nice.
- This session has come to an end, so put everything away.

### Discuss

the different expressions that have been used to mean 'it is time' and 'clean up'.

### Write

some of the expressions on the board and, if appropriate, encourage students to use a thesaurus to come up with some different expressions.

### Discuss

when suggestions do not mean the same thing. These examples provide excellent teaching opportunities to discuss precise meaning and meaning for different audiences. If students do not make these kinds of suggestions, make them yourself and challenge your students to tell you if they mean the same thing or not. Examples of inaccurate suggestions might include:

- Go home now. (This does not include the information about cleaning.)
- Do your jobs now. (This may work to some extent, but only if the jobs do actually include cleaning, so it is too vague.)

## Teaching activity: Using different words (+extension)

### EXTENSION

#### Ask

students to work in pairs to repeat the exercise with another sentence. Most sentences with two simple pieces of information will work. For example:

- I like eating milk chocolate.
- My mother exercises every day.
- It rained on market day.

#### Discuss

and share responses.

#### Ask

students to work in small groups and give each group a sentence with two pieces of information.

#### Ask

students to write several sentences that mean the same thing. Sentences should be written on separate pieces of paper so that they can be swapped around between groups later.

#### Ask

students to write several sentences that are similar but do not mean the same thing. For example:

The original sentence might be: Go and buy some cake.

A sentence with the same meaning might be: When you are shopping, get something sweet for afternoon tea.

A sentence that is similar but does not have the same meaning might be: Can you pick up some food?

#### Ask

groups to swap their sentences and then sort them into sentences that mean the same and sentences that do not mean the same.

#### Ask

groups to check each other's classifications.

#### Discuss

and justify the various views and opinions.

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[www.acer.org/pat-trc](http://www.acer.org/pat-trc)

