

# Word Map

## Learning Objective:

The purpose of this activity is to help your students deepen their understanding of a vocabulary word. They do this by making connections between the word and how it's used in context, how it relates to words with similar and opposite meanings, and how it functions in sentences in its various forms.

## Materials:

- Word Map graphic organizer

## Directions:

1. Prepare a student-friendly definition for the vocabulary word. The easiest way to do this is to use an online dictionary and look for the "kids definition." A student-friendly definition is really an explanation using words and examples that students already know. Here's an example: The word *dictate* means to say something for someone to write down.
2. Prepare a sentence that provides an example of how to use the word. For example: I *dictate* our spelling words. This means, I say them, and you write them down.
3. Have two or three synonyms and antonyms ready. An online dictionary is a great source for finding these.
4. Determine how the word functions in sentences (its part of speech). Often words have more than one function. Depending on your students, you might only talk about one function of the word. The easiest way to do this is to talk about how the word's function in the example sentence. In the sentence, "I *dictate* our spelling words," *dictate* functions as an action verb and answers the question "did what?"
5. Prepare examples of how this word is used in different contexts. For example, sometimes people dictate into their phone what they want to say in a text or an email. This means they say it, and their phone types it.

**Teacher Tip:** You can use word mapping flexibly! You can complete them together as a whole-group or small-group activity. You can also use them as an assessment tool by having students complete them independently. This gives you insight into how well your students understand and can use a vocabulary word.

| READING UNIVERSE                                 |                                                           | Word Map                                                                                 | Name _____ |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Synonyms</b><br>(words that are the same)     | <b>Word:</b> _____<br><b>Definition</b><br>_____<br>_____ | <b>Context</b><br>(ways and situations this word can be used)<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |            |
| <b>Antonyms</b><br>(words that are the opposite) | <b>Sentence or Picture</b><br>_____<br>_____<br>_____     | <b>Other Forms of the Word</b><br>(add prefixes and suffixes)<br>_____<br>_____          |            |
|                                                  |                                                           | <b>Part of Speech</b><br>_____                                                           |            |

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## Synonyms

(words that are the same)

**Word:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Definition

## Sentence or Picture

## Other Forms of the Word

(add prefixes and suffixes)

## Context

(ways and situations this word can be used)

## Part of Speech

## Antonyms

(words that are the opposite)