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Word Detective



Skill

- Students will identify contractions, antonyms, or synonyms.

Student Grouping

- large group
- small group
- centers

Materials

- cards (contractions on pages 87–89, synonyms on pages 91–93, antonyms on pages 95–97)
- copy of Word Detective Recording Sheet (page 84) for each student
- Answer Key (page 85)

Directions

1. Decide which of the following areas will be the focus: contractions, synonyms, or antonyms.
2. Tell the students on what area you will focus and explain the definition. For example, tell students that they will be learning about antonyms. Tell them that antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.
3. Write an example on the board. For instance, if the focus is antonyms, write the words *hot* and *cold*. Brainstorm with students other examples until you feel they have a good understanding of the area of focus.
4. Tell students that they will become word detectives.
5. Hand each student a recording sheet and a card in the area of focus. Have students write at the top of the recording sheet what they will be searching for (Example: *contractions*).
6. Tell students that they will need to find their match depending on the area of focus. (*Note:* In the case of the contractions, they will need to find two other people who have their match. For instance, if a student gets a card with *let*, he or she will need to find the card with *us*, and the card with *let's*.) When they find their match, they must record it on their recording sheet. For example, *hot/cold*, in the case of antonyms.
7. After recording the match, tell students to mix themselves up. Tell them to switch a card with somebody else. Then have them find their match again and record.
8. Continue until all matches have been found.

Ideas

- Laminate all cards and answer keys for durability. Store each set of cards with their appropriate answer key in plastic bags.
- Have students do this activity with magnifying glasses so they feel more like detectives.
- Have students create sentences from words on their recording sheet.
- The following is another way to implement this activity: Place one set of cards mixed up on a tray and let students independently find the matches. Have the answer key available for students to check their answers.
- Lay the cards face down on a flat surface and have a matching concentration game.
- Use the contraction cards and the Equation Board on page 75 to create contraction equations. (Example: $do + not = don't$)
- Have students create more cards for each set.

Word Detective Record Sheet

Searching for: _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____



Contractions

I

am

I'm

you

are

you're

it

is

it's

he

is

he's

she

is

she's

is

not

isn't