



Tutor tips:

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December
2018

Words of the Month: “Adverbs of Time”

after
always
before
during
lately
never
often
rarely
recently
sometimes
soon
today
tomorrow
usually
yesterday

Word Up!

Identify words from selected material (novel, short story, news article) and write them on cards. Distribute the cards to the student. Read the selection to the student and have the student hold up the appropriate word card each time the targeted word is used.

Connect Two

An activity where two lists of words are written on a white board or a piece of paper. Students are asked to make connections between a word on the first list and a word on the second list. Students should explain the reason for the connection they made.

Building Vocabulary with Word Capsules

Teach unfamiliar vocabulary by grouping words around a single topic or theme in a “word capsule.” List 8 to 12 words related to a topic that the learner needs or wants to learn about. Define each word and use them in context. Ask the learner to use each word in a sentence.

Building Vocabulary with Synonyms

Choose four to six new words based on a theme to which the learner can relate, such as, work, family, or sports. For each of the new words (e.g., *conversation*), determine which synonyms the learner already knows related to the verb *converse* or its noun form *conversation* (e.g., *talk, chat, speak, discuss/discussion*). Have the learner read the familiar words in a sentence, and then introduce the new word, *conversation*, as a noun. Show the learner the word in writing, pronounce the word, define it, and then use it in a sentence.

Writing Topics:

- Describe your favorite place in as much detail as possible.
- Describe the world 100 years from now. Describe how people live, and new inventions and also the things that will not change.
- Reading books vs. watching movies. Which do you prefer and why?

Merry Christmas!



Pre-reading

Questions:

What are some signs of Christmas?

Definitions:

Celebrate – to observe a certain day or time with special activities

Christmas is a festive time. You can see it. You can smell it. You can hear it. The sights, smells, and sounds of Christmas are celebrated by millions of people every year.

What do you see at Christmas? People light candles and decorate Christmas trees. Wreaths are hung on doors. People wear red and green clothing. Strings of lights twinkle on trees and houses. Some people even have reindeer on their lawn!

You may receive some Christmas cards in your mailbox. Many people send holiday greetings to their family and friends. A family photo and letter of the past year's events are often included. There are also sights of Christmas in the newspaper. You see ads for special sales in many, many stores. Don't forget Santa! He can be seen in most shopping malls.

What do you smell at Christmas? Christmas cookies are baked by young and old. Frosted cut-out cookies are a favorite. You see them in many shapes. There are green trees, yellow stars and red stockings. Many families make them every year. They are a Christmas tradition.

What do you hear at Christmas? "Frosty the Snowman?" "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?" "Jingle Bells?" Christmas carols are enjoyed by all. Religious songs like "Away in the Manger" and "Silent Night" are also favorite carols of the season.

Other sounds you may hear include friendly Christmas greetings. People say, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" to friends and strangers. You will also hear the sound of cash registers ringing! Christmas is a busy time for the buying of gifts.

The sights, smells and sounds of Christmas are many. People of all ages and backgrounds share the spirit of the season. Christmas is a festive time for all.

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is a **tradition**?
2. What are **carols**? Which ones do you like?
3. How do people greet each other at Christmas?
4. What are the colors of Christmas?
5. How are "Mary" and "Merry" similar? How are they different?
6. Why do you think some non-Christians celebrate Christmas?
7. What does the word **festive** mean?



A Family Outing

Pre-reading

Questions:

What is a family outing?

Definitions:

Trunk - the storage area of a car

Fly - to move through the air

Jay and Joan like to spend time with their mom and dad. Today they are all going sledding. Two inches of new snow fell last night. The hill at the park is perfect for sledding.

They all put on warm clothes and boots. They bring along a hot drink. They put the sleds in the trunk of the car and drive to the park.

Jay and his dad go down the hill on one sled. Joan and her mom go down on the other sled. They go fast. The snow flies in their faces. They scream and laugh.

Sledding is fun.

Jay, Joan, mom and dad take a short break. They want to get out of the cold.

They go to the warming house and have a hot drink. They talk about their fun day. Soon it's back to the snow hill!!

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who goes on the family outing?
2. What is put in the trunk of the car?
3. Where is the snow hill?
4. How do we know that sledding is fun?
5. Where does the family go to get warm?