

Prefix-Smart® Level One:
Change My Word!

Resources:

8 1/2 x 11 color-coded base word cards
8 1/2 x 11 matching color-coded prefix cards
Word-builder activity sheets from the Prefix-Smart Workbook
Large spinner wheel with color-coded prefixes

Overview:

These combinations of color-coded prefix and base cards can be used in several activities to introduce students to making words and antonyms with prefixes. You can use these as a game or just a warm-up vocabulary activity before any class. Use the large spinner wheel to create an exciting contest where students can compete by matching words to prefixes as quickly as possible.

Simple steps

1. Distribute different sets of color-coded prefix cards to individual students or to small groups. Hold up a large base card. This card is going to be color-coded according to the prefixes that can match that word.
2. Say the word and ask the students to repeat the word with you.
3. Spell the word. Then ask the students to spell the word with you.
4. Use the word in a sentence and ask the students about the word's meaning. Then, give them the meaning of the word.
5. Ask students to write the word into the word box on their word-maker sheets.
6. Now, say: Change my word!!!
7. Ask students to find the color-coded prefix card that can change this word.
8. Next, ask students to write the prefix into the prefix box on their word-maker sheets.
9. Now, write the new word on your whiteboard or blackboard, and ask the students to write the new word in the last box on the sheets.
10. Go over the meaning of the new word. Ask students: "How did the prefix change the word?"
11. Review the original sentence. Ask the students how the sentence will be changed if we add the new word instead of the original word to that sentence.
12. Use the sentence completion activity to find the new vocabulary word to complete its corresponding sentence.
13. Repeat the activity with the same prefix, or choose another combination of color-coded prefixes and their matching base cards.

Advanced option: review and reinforcement

Print the cards on white sheets of paper. After students have learned how to connect the correct prefixes and base words, regular white sheets will allow them to review without the color-coded clues.

Most of all, have fun. You are introducing students to the world of morphemes.