

Word Sort

The activity in Exhibit 6.12 emphasizes word structures and relationships, which are key components of good vocabulary instruction. This word sort lesson builds on students' innate understanding of language, and its kinesthetic elements tap into the multiple intelligences of different kinds of learners. Exhibit 6.13 presents word sorts for *Jane Eyre*, and Exhibit 6.14 shows word sorts for *Pride and Prejudice*.



Tips

- Purchase business cards at an office supply store. Print the lists on the business card sheets and place them in envelopes.
- Print each group's list in a separate color so you can keep better track of complete word-sort sets.

Exhibit 6.12 Word Sort Lesson Plan

Word Sort

Objective	To build on innate understanding of language to sort vocabulary words
Materials	Index cards, markers
Time	20–40 minutes, depending on list

Procedure

Step 1	Some sample word lists are included. The students should be divided into groups of three or four students, so you should make a set of word cards for each group.
Step 2	In their groups, the students should sort the word cards. They can use categories like parts of speech, synonyms, antonyms. The students may use a dictionary.
Step 3	Once the students have categorized their words, they can discuss them as a large group and attempt to make one word sort list for the entire class. At the end of the activity, ask the students, "What did you learn and why is it important?"
IRA/NCTE Standards	6. Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.

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Exhibit 6.13 Word Sort List for *Jane Eyre*

Chapters 1–10

morose	sequester	turbulent	antagonist	kindling	pendant	pervade
simultaneously	obliterate	usurious	frock	engender	pinafore	retaliation
transient	mastiff	apothecary	synonymous	degradation	ire	apparel
pungent	bellow	garter	ignominy	browbeaten	conjecture	wretchedness
promotion	vignette	gallows	infliction	captious	insolent	peremptory
veranda	ruddy	gradation	penurious	perfidious	repugnance	tresses
refectory	luster	fervid	pestilence	consumption	solace	

Chapters 11–20

impediment	venerable	relic	prattle	stagnation	rookery	dispose
grimace	brooch	physiognomy	condole	propitious	novice	portfolio
suffusion	affability	philanthropist	haughty	gregarious	inopportune	pique
insolence	resolute	innate	fallible	coquetry	gnome	consecrate
destitute	stupefy	vex	equestrian	countenance	thwart	blunder
scrutiny	susceptible	pungent	volatile	insipid	beguile	anathema
enigma	adhere	junction	inflammatory	grimace	chagrin	multitudinous

Chapters 21–30

expedient	smote	coercion	feign	ardent	insufferable	revile
garb	oblivion	impediment	perverse	sneer	insolvency	noxious
remonstrance	repel	lattice	genial	morass	aperture	omnipotence
skepticism	exultation	sprite	stile	gossamer	asperity	specter
predominate	ascetic	lethargic	frivolous	indolence	entreat	fastidious

Chapters 31–38

warp	intractable	relinquish	impropriety	indulgent	reconcilement	gnaw
clad	insatiable	assiduous	repast	oculist	chastisement	infallible
austerity	bequest	scrupulous	doleful	conjecture	incredulous	annihilation
despotic	tenacious	enunciation	priggish	beneficent	lacerate	surmise
vivacity	pithy					

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Exhibit 6.14 Word Sort List for *Pride and Prejudice*

Chapters 1–21

impertinent	fortnight	indignation	insipid	draught	countenance	assent
eminent	stout	prevail	odious	deceitful	expostulation	reprehensible
infinite	civility	novelty	willful	propitious	felicity	rectory
amends	deference	affability	abode	tête à tête	parsonage	deign
contemplation	esteem	degenerate	proxy	procure	probity	exultation
humility	discernment	bestow	insolent	persevere	injunction	patroness
condescend	coquetry					

Chapters 21–40

abound	simpleton	desponding	solicitation	trifle	composure	incredulous
boisterous	rapturous	abhorrence	inclination	circumspect	canvass	solemnity
perverse	entail	thwart	assert	duplicity	defection	conciliate
alacrity	indisposed	controverted	sally	derive	peruse	impute
avowal	endeavor	remorse	suppress	disapprobation	verdure	refute
pecuniary	encumbrance	insolence	perusal	profligate	benevolence	contrivance
approbation	fervent	affront	vindication			

Chapters 41–50

lamentation	vexation	frivolous	impute	impropriety	acquiesce
bestow	perverse	cordiality	tincture	repugnant	impetuous
consolatory	elopement	lamentation	villainous	fretful	infamy
dilatory	sanguine	licentiousness	conjecture	exuberance	folly
connubial	felicity				

Chapters 51–60

vestibule	abash	impertinence	scruple
inducement	sedate	vex	dupe
pretension	incessant	sagacity	closure

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