

Teacher notes

Exploring Vocabulary Activities: Word Scales

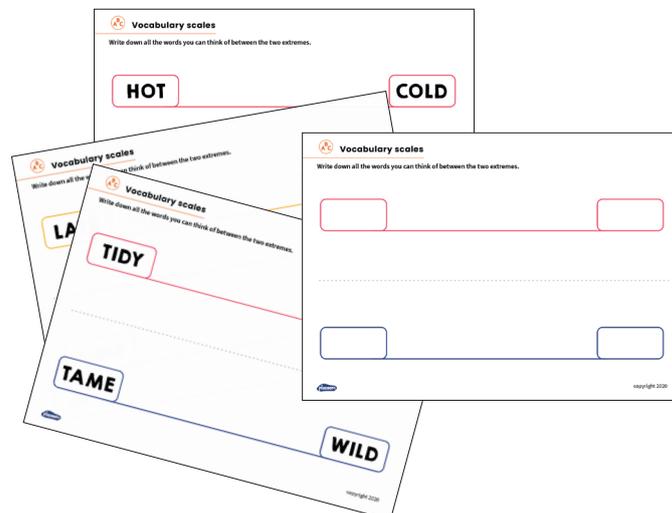
Encourage pupils in Years 2-6 to broaden their knowledge and use of vocabulary, by completing the scales with words that link between two extremes. This activity could be used as a starter to improve pupils' word choices before writing.

English Objectives covered are:

- **Y2** – To write down key words, including new vocabulary
- **Y3/4** – To evaluate and edit by proposing changes to vocabulary
- **Y5/6** – To evaluate and edit by proposing changes to vocabulary

The resources include:

- **Vocabulary scales**
Seven worksheets with examples of word pairs for pupils to complete with linking vocabulary. These are best printed out at A3 size.
- **Blank vocabulary scales**
A version of the scales where teachers or children can add their own words at the extremes; again, these are best printed at A3 size.



Introduce the task

- Discuss with the pupils what a ‘scale’ is. Explain that they will be writing words linked to two extremes on a scale. Recap the use of a thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms as needed.

Activity

- Choose a worksheet with a word pair that you would like your pupils to investigate, use the blank worksheet to create your own, or allow children to suggest a word pair.
- Allow pupils time to complete the activity (approx. 10 min), using a thesaurus if available.
- As a class, share words added to the sheet. After the class discussion, give pupils the opportunity to add additional words to their own work.
- Begin a class display for pupils to refer to during writing.

Further suggested activities

- Revisit this activity regularly to develop pupils’ understanding of synonyms and antonyms, helping them to improve their vocabulary choices when writing and editing.
- Have blank vocabulary scales sheets available for pupils to use when exploring word choices, especially before a writing activity.
- Display examples of vocabulary scales for pupils to add to from their own reading or writing, as part of a working wall.