

CONCENTRATION

This is a 3-part game that can take 10 minutes or 30, depending on how much time you have. You could also play it on successive days. Ten vocabulary words and their definitions seem to be ideal.

Who does this activity help? Kinesthetic, visual, and auditory learners.

When should you do this activity? Any time in the chapter, but if you use it as a pre-reading activity, you could build on it by asking students to imagine what the chapter is going to be about based on these words. If you do it after the chapter, you could incorporate a race between teams or partners to see who can find the word on the page the fastest.

What do you need? One vocabulary list and 5 index cards per pair. I cut plain (unlined) index cards into 4 cards so that the game fits on the desks better and in order to reduce paper waste. You need a card for each word and for each definition. So if you have 10 new words, you need 20 cards. Except for creating and photocopying the list, students do the prep work. Let them familiarize themselves with the words by doing the work themselves.

PART1

In pairs, students write a word on one card and its definition on another. Have them divide the list in half, but don't let one student write all the definitions and the other write all the new vocabulary words.

This is a great place to stop if you run out of time! Give each pair an envelope, have them write their names on it, and then collect the envelopes since otherwise they will get lost or the partner who took the envelope will be absent...

Have pairs flip all the cards face down. Students decide who goes first based on...

alphabetical order by first name

birthday (oldest or youngest)

whichever partner gets closest to the number between 1 and 10 in your head

The first student flips two cards. If they match, the student keeps the cards and goes again. If they don't match, the student turns them back over, and play passes to the other student.

PART 2

When students have played a few times or have finished or you see interest flag, then have them turn the cards face up. You can collect their vocabulary sheets to make this more difficult.

Take a vocabulary sheet. When you call out a definition, the student who grabs the vocabulary word gets to keep it. When you call out a vocabulary word, the student who takes the definition gets to keep it.

Mark off what you've called out as you go. Read the words/definitions more and more quickly as you near the end of the list.

PART 3

When all the cards have been won, have students use them to make two sets of flashcards! If they have the word, have them write the definition on the back. If they have the definition, write the word.

Vocabulary lists for Chapters 1 to 3 are below. If you make up more lists, please don't hesitate to email them to me (sandy@sandra-evans.com) and I'll share your wonderful work on my website so others can have that jaw dropping, rare sensation of *I can actually use this? I can go home and spend time with my family tonight instead of perching on the couch with all my papers spread around me and telling my children (in an angry voice I'd never use with my students) 'Give me 10 more minutes, would you? I'm almost done here. Can't anyone do anything in this house without me being involved?'*

Chapter 1 Vocabulary list

commotion	Noun : noise, confusion, disruption
barracks	Noun : a building where soldiers live and sleep
toupee	Noun : a small wig
qualm	Noun : remorse, regret, misgiving
bioluminescent	Adjective : emitting (giving off) light
fungus	Noun : mushrooms, mold, and yeast
genome	Noun : the genetic material of an organism

Chapter 2 Vocabulary list

herd	wildebeest
pride	lion
crash	rhino
unkindness	raven
leap	leopard
wreck	sea hawk
murder	crow
school	fish

pack	wolf
mob	kangaroo
host	sparrow
den	snake

Chapter 3 Vocabulary list

ravenous	Adjective : hungry
famished	Adjective : hungry
voracious	Adjective : a huge appetite
sulfuric acid	Noun : a strong acid
temperament	Noun : a person's character
bane	Noun : the cause of ruin
balm	Noun : a soothing ointment
gall	Noun : anger, the nerve

petrify	Verb : to scare
caliber	Noun : a person's degree of ability