





25. Ranking Words

 15 minutes	 Intermediate +
 Word recognition, meaning and patterns	
 Worksheet 3-7	

IDEA

Students arrange a list of words along a continuum. It's a higher order thinking activity that requires some sensitivity to differences in meanings and a dash of creativity to describe the criteria used to rank words.

SET UP

Copy Worksheet 3-7 for students or display on projection screen.

FLOW

Describe the concept of a word chain. A group of words are placed in order based on a specific criterion. Here is an example:

- cat - dog - elephant - hippo - snake

These words might be organized into this list:

- snake, cat, dog, hippo, elephant
They are all animals, ranked by size, from the smallest to the largest.

Different answers are possible depending on the criterion. For example, the same list could look like this if ranked according to danger to humans.

- cat, dog, snake, elephant, hippo
Ranked from least dangerous to most dangerous to humans.

Ask a few early finishers to write a few lists on the board and explain their reasons for the rankings they produced.

ANSWERS (SUGGESTED)

Group A

1. day - week - month - year - decade
 - time, from shortest to longest
2. hat - dress - belt - socks - boots
 - clothes, from top to bottom (or from head to toe)
3. baby - child - teenager - grown up - senior
 - age, from youngest to oldest
4. defend - attack - kick - score - win
 - soccer actions, from one end to the other and score a goal

Group B

5. golf - pool - tennis - bowling - football
 - game ball sizes, from smallest to biggest
6. run - rush - march - walk - hike up
 - moving, from fastest to slowest
7. appointment - dinner - date - party - festival
 - having fun meeting people, from simple to exciting
8. scan - check - go over - review - study
 - reading speed, from quick to slow

Group C

9. plastic - hand - glass - wood - steel
 - strength of things, from weakest to strongest
10. angry - sad - calm - surprised - happy
 - emotions, from negative to positive
11. all - most - majority - some - none
 - quantity of things, from the most to the least
12. beside - across from - behind - under - ahead
 - places close to me and easy to see, from closest to farthest

Group D

13. bike - car - truck - bus - plane
 - kinds of transportation, smallest to largest
14. scream - shout - argue - mention - whisper
 - talking, from loudest to quietest
15. rare - unusual - special - interesting - ordinary
 - quality of things, from unique to common
16. excellent - fine - nice - good enough - poor
 - degrees of success, from great to bad

Worksheet 3-7 Ranking Words

Group A

- 1 year, day, month, decade, week
- 2 boots, dress, hat, belt, socks
- 3 child, senior, grown up, teenager, baby
- 4 win, score, kick, attack, defend

Group B

- 5 pool, bowling, football, tennis, golf
- 6 rush, walk, march, hike, run
- 7 appointment, date, dinner, festival, party
- 8 review, study, go over, check, scan

Group C

- 9 steel, glass, wood, hand, plastic
- 10 angry, calm, sad, happy, surprised
- 11 most, none, some, all, majority
- 12 ahead, behind, beside, under, across from

Group D

- 13 car, truck, bike, plane, bus
- 14 scream, argue, mention, shout, whisper
- 15 special, ordinary, interesting, rare, unusual
- 16 nice, poor, excellent, good enough, fine