

Grammatical awareness and presentation

AGE RANGE 7–8

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

To use awareness of grammar to decipher new or unfamiliar words.

CURRICULUM LINKS

NLS: Year 3, Terms 1, 2 and 3

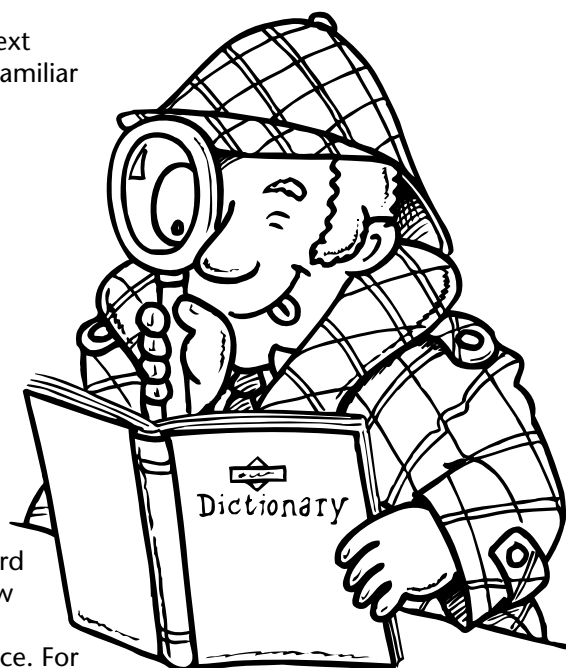
Word detectives

What you need

A board and writing materials; dictionaries; an text extract that has words which are likely to be unfamiliar to the whole class, copied onto acetate; OHP; photocopiable page 90; pens.

What to do

- Ask the children what they can do if they are reading and come across an unfamiliar word. There may be several responses, including ignore it and carry on reading(!), ask an adult or use a dictionary. Point out that often it is possible to guess the meaning of a word by using clues in the rest of the sentence.
- Write a word on the board that you are confident none of the children will be familiar with. For example, *detrimental*. Ask the children to guess what it means. Without putting the word into the context of a sentence, they will have few clues to help them.
- Follow this by writing the word into a sentence. For example, *Too many chips and other greasy foods can be detrimental to your health.*
- Ask the children to guess the meaning of the word and tell you what helped them to make their guess. Let them confirm the definition using a dictionary.
- Show the class the extract on the OHP. Read it together and underline the words that you think will be unfamiliar to the children. As a class, use grammatical awareness to decipher the meaning of the words. Ask the children to use dictionaries to check the meanings.
- The children can then work on their own using photocopiable page 90.



Differentiation

More able children could be given a piece of text containing challenging vocabulary. Let them identify the unfamiliar words, use grammatical awareness to try to decipher the meanings and then confirm these using dictionaries. When working on the photocopiable sheet, read the first ten sentences with less able children to guide them towards working out the meanings. For the second part, provide definitions of the words in the box.