

Word Thermometer Pocket Chart

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- *Word Thermometer Pocket Chart*, with magnetic strip and storage pocket
- *126 Word Cards: 14 Base Word Cards and 112 Degree Word Cards*
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® **Word Thermometer Pocket Chart**—an interactive educational tool that helps students understand synonyms and antonyms and build a stronger vocabulary at the same time.

Meeting Common Core State Standards

This **Word Thermometer Pocket Chart** is aligned with the following Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts:

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- L.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
- L.5** Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- L.K.5.d** Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (for example, *walk, march, strut, prance*) by acting out the meanings.
- L.1.5.d** Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs differing in manner (for example, *look, peek, glance, stare, glare, scowl*) and adjectives differing in intensity (for example, *large, gigantic*) by defining or choosing them or by acting out the meanings.
- L.2.5.b** Distinguish shades of meaning among closely related verbs (for example, *toss, throw, hurl*) and closely related adjectives (for example, *thin, slender, skinny, scrawny*).
- L.3.5.c** Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (for example, *knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered*).
- L.4.5.c** Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).
- L.5.5.c** Use the relationship between particular words (for example, synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words.

Cleaning and Storing the Word Thermometer Pocket Chart

Keep your *Pocket Chart* in good condition by wiping it occasionally with a damp sponge. Fold the *Pocket Chart* horizontally along the stitching lines for easy storage inside the *Storage Pocket*.

Displaying the Word Thermometer Pocket Chart

Before displaying the **Word Thermometer Pocket Chart**, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide and

file the pages for future use. Or, download another copy of it from our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com. Hang the *Pocket Chart* where students will be able to see it easily.

Introducing the Word Thermometer Pocket Chart

Choose a base word that is familiar to your students. Begin by placing the *Base Word Card* in the center pocket and adding a synonym *Degree Word Card* above it. (**Note:** *Degree Word Cards* are numbered to simplify organization.) Ask the students how the words are related. Continue adding synonym *Degree Word Cards*, one above the other, until the synonym section of the **Word Thermometer Pocket Chart** is full. If the words are unfamiliar to students, define them before placing them on the *Pocket Chart*. Encourage students to explain what happens to the words as they get “hotter” on the *Thermometer* and to defend or disagree with the order of the placement of the synonyms.

After you are sure that the students understand the gradient of intensity of the synonyms on the **Word Thermometer Pocket Chart**, begin adding one antonym *Degree Word Card* at a time and discussing the meaning of each word. As the antonyms get farther away from the base word, the intensity of meaning should become evident to the students.

Once the *Thermometer* is filled and students have studied the words on the *Pocket Chart*, transfer the words to a vocabulary center or post them in the room so that students have access to them while writing. Continue to introduce new *Base Words* and their *Degree Words* until all of the words have been taught.

Create Your Own Word Thermometers

Distribute the *Create Your Own Word Thermometers Reproducible* and set out dictionaries and thesauruses. The reproducible activity will help students to expand their vocabularies and to practice how to use reference materials by having them create their own word thermometers: Working in pairs, small groups, or individually, review the directions and instruct students to use the dictionaries and thesauruses, and, if possible, a computer in order to search for interesting words to add to their thermometers.

Once their thermometers are complete, ask students to share the words they chose and define any unfamiliar words for the class. Display all of the thermometers where students are able to easily see them and use them as a reference in their own writing.

Name: _____

Create Your Own Word Thermometers

Is it getting **hot** in here? Or is it **scorching**? Pick your own base word and create a word thermometer using synonyms and antonyms that you choose. Use a dictionary or thesaurus to help you choose words to include on your thermometer.

