

Defining Verbs

1. To _____, is to / means to _____. <--- verb (synonym)

- To **heat**, is to **raise** the temperature.
- To **repel**, is to **push away**.

2. When you _____ something, you _____. <---verb (synonym)

- When you **heat** something, you **raise** its temperature and make it warmer / hotter.
- When you **cool** something, you **lower** its temperature and make it cooler / colder.

3. If one _____, they _____. <--- verb (synonym)

- If one **heats** a substance, they **make it hotter by raising its temperature**.
raise its temperature and make it hotter.
- If two things **repel** each other, they **push** each other **away**.

Word Bank:

weigh

divide

multiply

add

subtract

measure

melt

remove

break down

record

expand

donate

TIP: Synonyms are words with similar meanings. Use a Thesaurus to look for synonyms.

Be careful. Many words are similar but not the same.

Defining Adjectives

1. A **spherical** thing is **shaped like a ball**.

Term **Classification** **Simile**

For example, grapefruits, baseballs and the Earth are all spherical.

2. **Spherical** means an **object's shape** is **similar to a ball**.

For example, oranges, balloons and your eyes are all spherical.

3. If **an item** is **spherical**, it's **shape is round in three dimensions** and has **no corners**.

Classification **Term** **Simile / Descriptions**

For example, ball bearings, grapes and soccer balls are all spherical.

For example: Always give an example or two of items that can be described with your adjective. Giving more than one example is best. Let's try.

1. long: _____

2. bitter: _____

3. clear: _____

4. thin: _____

Word Bank:

beautiful

blue

clean

clever

hard

noisy

freezing

powerful

difficult

sunny

delicious

square

TIP: When reading definitions in your dictionary you might see the letters *sth*, or *sb*. These letters stand for something and somebody. To make your definitions shorter and easier to write, try using these abbreviations.

Defining Nouns

1. A **pilot** is a kind of **person** who **flies a plane**. They **have good eyes** and are **serious**.
2. A **cork screw** is a sort of **kitchen tool** which **is used to open bottles** and is **spiral shaped**.
3. A **college** is a type of **school** where **students go after high school** to **continue learning**.

Term

Classification

Characteristic

Classifications are groups that things belong to. What groups do these things belong to?

1. Horses, cows, cats, dogs, giraffes, and pigs are **types** of _____.
2. Cars, planes, bikes, trains, and motorcycles are **kinds** of _____.
3. Horror, romance, comedy, and drama are **categories** of _____.
4. Whiskey, vodka, gin, beer, sake, and rum are **varieties** of _____.
5. Baseball, football, tennis, rugby, and skiing are **sorts** of _____.

Word Bank:

police officer

baseball

hospital

friend

bridge

train station

mother

violin

park

hero

band

supermarket

TIP: Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. Use a Thesaurus to look for antonyms.

Be careful. Many words are close in meaning but not the same.

Defining with Verbs / Adjectives / Nouns

Not every student is going to find these worksheets as useful as some of the teachers using them might. I started using this with very special group of students who NEEDED to define and explain things as part of their jobs. My students were moving on to work in developing countries as teachers and it was important that they be able to clearly explain scientific and engineering terms effectively.

Knowing these patterns can be very helpful for students depending on what their jobs are or what they are studying in school.

Using the Sheets

I wouldn't use all three sheets in one day. Maybe one a week. The patterns can be a lot to remember so it could take some time and regular practice to get them down. Our students had regular homework practicing making definitions in written and visual forms. It's a bit tricky and could take a little time but mastering the patterns is what matters.

VERBS

I've always found the verbs sheet the easiest and most straight forward to use. It's not important that students learn all three patterns. One pattern should suffice if used well. I would start with that and then move on to . .

NOUNS

Defining nouns is the next hardest pattern to master. Fortunately it follows a very simple structure of **Term**, **Classification**, **Characteristic**. Once this pattern is down students should be able to make their own definitions easily. You'll notice some helpful vocabulary in the practice section listing **kids** of / **types** of / **varieties** of, etc. As students look for or make definitions these terms will be pop up a lot.

ADJECTIVES

This is perhaps the hardest of the three as it has two distinctly different patterns. The definitions are a bit longer and include longer examples to support the definitions.

Have an idea about how to make the worksheets better or want to share some ideas of your own? Notice a typo or want to request more sheets like this? Just get in touch with Mike at myenglishimages@gmail.com