

The goal of this activity is to help students associate words based on their pronunciations. Students group words based on number of syllables and stress pattern. If students are able to know what words are pronounced the same, it makes every other word in that group easier to say. I do this game with the New Horizon Picture Dictionary. Although this technically can work for any vocab list, it works better with some than others. For example, it works very well with Countries (pg. 16) and Animals (pg. 12), but not well with Verbs (pg. 18, 19). Countries and Animals have a manageable amount of words, have varying patterns, and some difficult-to-pronounce words. The Verbs list is too long, and almost all of them are one syllable. This activity can also be done at any grade level.

Materials

Teacher:

Vocabulary cards, magnets, blackboard/whiteboard, chalk/marker

Students:

None

Activity

1. Model pronunciation for students and have them repeat after you. You can do this with the counting syllables/showing stress technique from the block meeting presentation. Attach the vocabulary card to the board.
2. Do the next word, and ask students if the intonation is the same or different. If same, put it next to the first card. If different, make a new group.
3. Repeat this until all words are finished.
4. Ask students about the intonation of each group. They can just show you visually with their hands. Draw the intonation pattern for each group.

