

Same Words But Different Meaning

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Any language can be used for this classroom activity. I have taken Kannada for illustrative purposes.

Level 1

Skills

- Differentiating meanings of similar-sounding words
- Using homonyms in sentences. Homonyms are words that sound alike but have different meanings.

Learning Objectives: To enable learners

- To differentiate meaning in similar-sounding words using pictures.
- To construct sentences that show the difference in meanings of homonyms.

Materials

- Prepare a list of homonymous words along with their pictures.
- Prepare sentences that match the pictures.

Class: 5

Duration: 45 minutes

Nature of Activity: Whole Class

Procedure

- The teacher calls out a word, reads two sentences, and shows two pictures matching the word.
- Students have to say which sentence stands for which picture.

“The word is ಹತ್ತು (Hattu) “To climb/Ten.”

The two sentences are (1) ಇದು ಹತ್ತು (idu hattu) "This is ten."
 (2) ಮೆಟ್ಟಿಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಹತ್ತು (meTalannu hattu) "climb the stairs."
 "Here are Pictures A and B. Now tell me, which picture fits the first sentence and which fits the second".

Picture A



Picture B



- After getting the answer, the teacher asks for the meaning of the word ಹತ್ತು (Hattu).
- The teacher encourages students to make different sentences using these words.
- The teacher checks the sentences for the correct use of the word and the appropriateness of their meaning in the sentence context.

Level 2: Matching Pictures with Words and Making Sentences

Skills: Identify homonyms and make sentences

Learning Objectives: To enable students

- To identify similar sounding words from pictures
- To make sentences using them

Classes: 5 and 6

Duration: 40 minutes

Nature of Activity: Group Activity with each group of eight students

Materials: A sheet with pictures (see Picture 1) (Use as many sheets as the number of groups) and a word list (See Table 1)

Procedure

- Students form groups of eight.

- The teacher gives the sheet with pictures and the word list (without the meaning of words).
- Each student identifies one word that represents a picture.
- When all the words are identified, each pair within the group make a sentence for the word they identified.
- The teacher ensures that the sentences are according to word pairs.
- The meaning difference between the words in the word pair is discussed.

Picture 1: A Sheet with Pictures

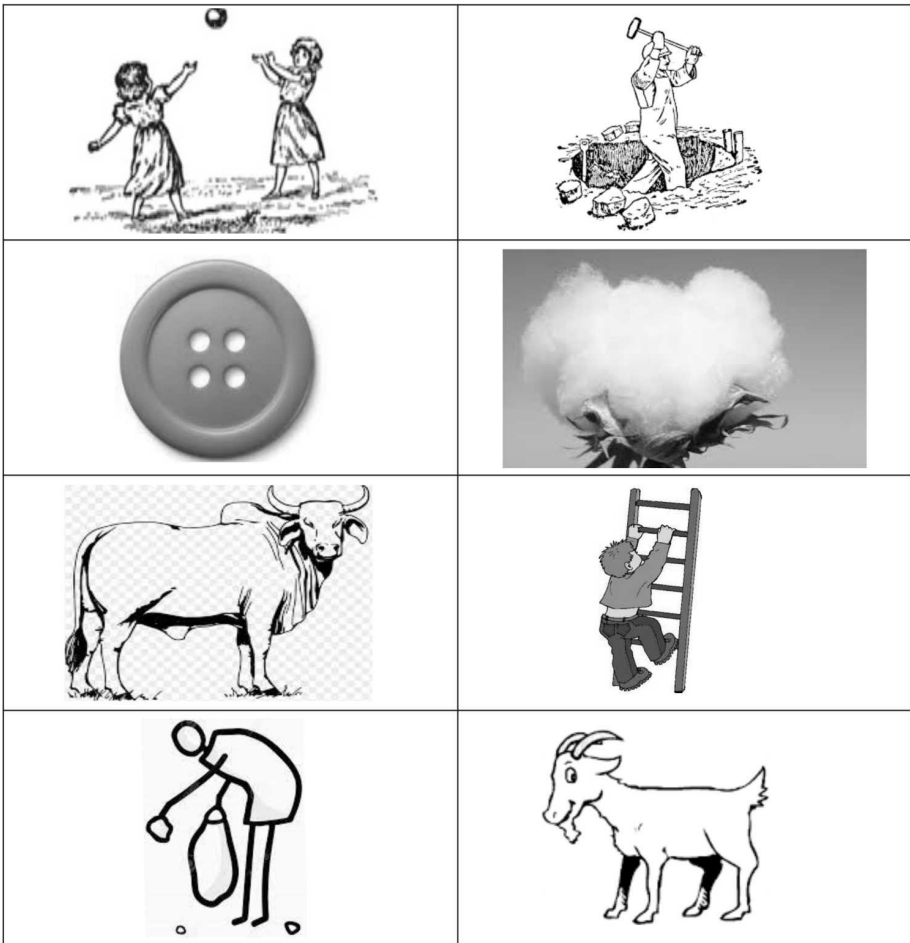


Table 1: List of Words

Word	Meaning
ಆಡು (AADu)	Play / Goat
ಎತ್ತು (ettu)	Bullock / Pick-up
ಹತ್ತಿ (hatti)	Climbed / Cotton
ಗುಂಡಿ (gunDi)	Button / Pit

Note:

- Start with concrete words.
- Gradually move to abstract words using mimes to indicate their meaning.
- Students can also be encouraged to identify the grammatical category to which the word belongs (eg. Noun, Verb)
- A few other similar-sounding words in Kannada are as below:
 ಬೇಡ (BeDa): Don't Want / Hunter ಕೇಳು (KeLu): Ask / Listen
 ತಂದೆ (Tande): Father / I Brought ಕಾಡು (KADu): Forest / Trouble
 ಕಾಲು (KaalU): Leg / Quarter ಆಳು (AALu): Rule / Servant
 ಕುಡಿ (kuDi): Drink / Shoot (of a plant) ಕರ (Kara): Hand / Tax
 ನೆನೆ (Nene): Get Wet / Recall ಉತ್ತರ (Uttara): Answer / North
 ನರ (nara): Vein / Human being

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