**Title:** Using a thesaurus

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| **SKILLS FOCUS***Using a thesaurus to expand vocabulary*  |
| **LEARNING INTENTION**To use a thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms | **SUCCESS CRITERIA***Children will be able to:** Understand when a thesaurus could be used
* Explain what is meant by synonyms and antonyms
* Demonstrate how to use a thesaurus efficiently
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| **PREVIOUS LEARNING**Children will have experience of using monolingual dictionaries, and have come across synonyms (similar words) and antonyms (opposites). |
| **LESSON****Introduction** (10 mins)* Bring out a monolingual dictionary and ask children to suggest what they would expect to find in it.
* Bring out a thesaurus – what is the difference? When would each be used? Discuss with class.

**Development** (10-15 mins)* Recap on what is meant by synonyms and antonyms. Use a beanbag to play a game: say a word, throw the beanbag to a child who has to quickly say a synonym or antonym of it.
* Children work in pairs or small groups: give out A3 sheets and pens to each group. Say a word and in a set amount of time groups have to write down as many synonyms or antonyms as they can for that word. Discuss answers and award points for correct answers.
* Show children a thesaurus entry on the whiteboard – look at how information is displayed (alphabetical order, part of speech, main synonym first, etc).

**Follow-up** (20 mins)* Give children a piece of text containing a certain number of words which are underlined. A thesaurus should be used to find a synonym and replace the word. Remind children to check that the word can be used in the same way and that the sentence still makes sense.

**Plenary** (5 mins)* Ask some of the children to read out their amended and improved text and ask the class to give feedback on their effective use of the thesaurus.
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| * Set of thesauruses
* Prepared text with underlined words
* A3 paper and pen
 | * Beanbag
* Timer
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| **CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS*** IT: use a thesaurus to create a word cloud of synonyms of overused words for display
* PSHE: use a thesaurus to create a scale of feelings eg happy = pleased 🡪 ecstatic, as a basis for discussion
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