**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 | |
| **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. | | |
| * Set of thesauruses * Prepared text with underlined words * A3 paper and pen | | * Beanbag * Timer |
| **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 | | |