

Exploring Gender - Noun Classification

Purpose

This activity gets children thinking about the characteristics of French nouns right from the start. When sorting cards, they have to look for similarities and differences. These are most obvious in the article (word preceding the noun) which can lead to great discussion, interest and understanding when managed well.

Objective

- ✓ to sort, classify and group words
- ✓ to articulate precisely reasoning process
- ✓ to develop language learning strategies and knowledge about language

Preparation

Pupils work in groups of 3 or 4. Each group will need:

- 1 set of word cards
- 1 classifying nouns sheet
- Check your understanding of French gender sheet 1 (reduce to A5 – one per pupil)
- Check your understanding of French gender sheet 2 (reduce to A5 – one per pupil)

When working with younger children use the set of word cards restricted to le; la; l' and les. For pupils already familiar with gender, use the set with a mixture of articles.

Starter

For older pupils show the first 8 scenes of the story inviting pupils to comment on the vocabulary. Can they remember the words from the picture cards?

Activity 1

Give out the cards to each group. Say the words on each card and ask pupils to put them into the sequence as you say them. Discuss any that were difficult to identify. Ask pupils to sort the cards into groups.

After 5 minutes ask each group how they chose to sort. Whatever way groups have sorted the words go in that direction. For example if a group has sorted into words they know and don't know, check the meaning of the words that they think they know in the story. Ask pupils to consider what the word or words preceding the main word on the card might be. Listen to the pronunciation of the words and practice repeating them.

Now look in the story to work out the meaning of the group of words they didn't know. Listen to the sounds of the new words and practice the pronunciation. Relate to phonic grid.

If they still can't work out the meaning what other strategies do they think they could employ?

Activity 2

Ask groups to re-sort the cards onto the classifying nouns sheet. Take feedback. Can they come up with some generalisations? In pairs complete French Gender sheet 1 and stick into exercise books.

Debrief

Ask pupils what they discovered about language through the process and how they discovered it. What skills did they use? I.e. discussing, explaining, reasoning, justifying, making judgements etc

Homework

Complete French Gender sheet 2

le bonhomme	le four	les yeux
la dame	du sucre	un sourire
une odeur	de la farine	des cerises
la cuisine	l'assiette	des bonbons
la table	les boutons	de l'épice

la dame	la cuisine	le bonhomme
le vieillard	le jardin	le four
le cochon	la porcherie	le renard
la vache	le champ	la rivière
le cheval	l'écurie	la rue

Classifying nouns

a	the	some

1

Check your understanding of French gender.

Highlight the correct options for each of the statements below.

un	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
le	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
du	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
la	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
une	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
de la	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
de l'	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
des	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
l'	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.
les	means	the / a / some	before	masculine / feminine	singular / plural	nouns.

2

Check your understanding of French gender.

Write your own rules

				masculine / feminine	singular / plural
a or an	is		in French for nouns that are		
a or an	is				
the	is				
the	is				
the	is				
the	is				
some	is				
some	is				
some	is				
some	is				
Have a go....					
an oven -	the flour -		the sugar -		the smile -
the plates -	a kitchen -		some tables -		some buttons -
some ladies -	some eyes -		the spices -		a lady -
a cherry -	some smells -		a sweet -		the sweets -