

Comprehension Strategy

Strategy: Flip-A-Chip. This strategy builds vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Appropriate Grade Level: 2-5

Materials Needed:

- Two poker chips (or any hard circles would do for flipping)
- Plastic bag
- Markers
- Paper and pencil

Procedures/Steps:

1. The first chip has *PRO* printed on the front and on the back is printed *RE*.
2. The second chip has *DUCE* printed on the front and on the back is printed *VOKE*.
3. No matter how you flip these syllables, you will get a word. Try it!
4. Talk about the meanings of the four words, acquaint the syllables as prefixes and roots, and talk about the word elements as meaningful chunks.
5. Have a fill-in-the-blanks paragraph ready for the words to fit into as an example to share with the students.

**Sample Paragraph:*

Mrs. Jones was angry. She said, "My students _____ me when they are tardy. They _____ one excuse after another. I want to _____ the number of tardies, so I'll _____ the privileges of any pupil who is late.

**Words:* produce, reduce, provoke, revoke

6. Pair the students, then give each pair a marker and two poker chips in a plastic bag.
7. Have the students' print four syllables on the chips, when they come up with combinations that flip into four words.
8. Together the pair writes a paragraph with blanks for the words chosen.
9. Practice the paragraph with the words in the blanks to make sure it makes sense.
10. When the paragraph is finished, put it in the plastic bag along with the chips. Label the bag with students' names as authors and creators of that Flip-A Chip packet.
11. Then the students trade bags.

Comments/Tips:

- This activity builds vocabulary and comprehension skills.
- Could be used in the content areas nicely.

Source:

Mountain, L. (2002). Flip-A-Chip to build vocabulary. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, 46, 62-68.