



FAMILY GUIDES: EDUCATION WORDS

GRADES K – 5

Sometimes, you'll hear educators use a word that has a specific meaning in schools. Understanding those terms will help you speak the same language!

Antonyms

Antonyms are words that mean the opposite. "Big" and "little" are antonyms.

Automaticity

Automaticity is the ability to do things without thinking about each step in the process. It is usually the result of learning, repetition, and practice.

Coordinate plane

A coordinate plane (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/coordinate-plane>) is a two-dimensional (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/two-dimensional>) plane formed by the intersection of a vertical number line called y-axis and a horizontal number line called x-axis. These are perpendicular lines that intersect each other at zero, and this point is called the origin (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/origin>).

Decodable

Decodable texts are those that are connected to sound and spelling patterns that have already been taught, so most words the students read will be ones they can decode based on what they have been taught. (For example, students who have learned the sounds /a/, /c/, and /t/ can decode "cat.")

Figurative language

Figurative language uses figures of speech to be more interesting, effective, and impactful. ("My dog's coat is as black as coal." "He was a lion when he fought for what was right.")

Fluency

The ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression that shows comprehension of what is being read.

Idiom

A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (for example, "raining cats and dogs," meaning "to rain heavily;" "piece of cake," meaning "something that is easy to do").

Inventive spelling

Spelling a word using spelling attempts based on letters that the child knows to represent each sound. Accurate spelling is less important than ensuring that your child is using what they have been taught, and building up their ability to sound out words when writing.

Number line

A straight line with numbers placed at equal segments along its length.



Numerator and denominator

The numerator is the top number in a fraction. It shows how many parts we have. The denominator is the bottom number in a fraction. It shows how many parts the item is divided into.



Phonemic awareness

The ability to recognize that spoken words are made up of individual sounds (or phonemes), and to identify, produce, and play with those individual sounds (a critical part of **phonological awareness**).

Phonological awareness

The ability to recognize the sounds of language, including rhyme, syllables, and the sounds in words.

Place value

Every digit in a number has a place value based on its position in the number. For example, in the number 548, the digit 5 is in the hundreds place, and its place value is 500. The digit 4 is in the tens place, and its place value is 40. The digit 8 is in the ones place, and its place value is 8.

Prefix

A prefix is a group of letters added to the beginning of a word that change its meaning. Adding "un" to the word "clean" makes the word mean "not clean." Other common prefixes are "re," "dis," "over," "mis," and "out."

Reading level

Teachers often determine the grade level at which a student is reading. But sometimes, children are then limited to reading texts at that level (typically a letter or number). This practice is one to be wary of, particularly if children are limited to reading only texts that are below the grade level goals, or texts that aren't **decodable** and don't match their phonics instruction.

Rote counting

Counting numbers in order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5...).



Sight words

Sight words are any words that a child can read automatically.

Suffix

A suffix is a group of letters added to the end of a word. Suffixes can change the meaning of a word. Adding “less” to “end” changes its meaning to “without end.” A suffix can also change how the word is used. The noun “child” becomes an adjective “childish” when you add the suffix “ish.”

Synonyms

Synonyms are words that mean the same thing. “Big” and “enormous” are synonyms.

Text sets

Text sets are carefully grouped sets of texts and media resources focused on a specific topic designed to help all learners build background knowledge and vocabulary through a lot of reading on science, social studies, and other high-interest topics.

Thesis statement

A thesis statement is one or two sentences that summarize the paper’s main point, main idea, or main message.

Unlike denominators

Unlike denominators are two fractions (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/fractions/fraction>) with non-identical denominators (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/fractions/denominator>). For example, $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{4}{10}$ have unlike denominators.

Volume

Volume is the 3-dimensional (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/3-dimensional>) space enclosed by a boundary or occupied by an object. Finding the volume of an object can help us to determine the amount required to fill that object, like the amount of water needed to fill a bottle, an aquarium, or a water tank. The volume of an object is measured in cubic units (<https://www.splashlearn.com/math-vocabulary/geometry/cubic-unit>) such as cubic centimeters, cubic inch, cubic foot, cubic meter, etc.