



WriteShop Junior Adjective Exchange Game



Writing Activity Center Ideas
and 20 Writing Prompts included!

WriteShop® Junior - Adjective Exchange Game

"We played Adjective Exchange for days! The whole family got involved and the coins lived on the kitchen table, making for some very descriptive dinner conversation." -Lynn, TX

Advance Prep

- Have ready an edible treat for each child, such as a bag of foil-covered chocolate coins.
- For each child, print 3 pages of large coins on yellow or gold cardstock. Print 1 page of small coins on gray or tan cardstock. Cut out the paper coins.

Directions

Review adjectives with your children. Talk about the different ways adjectives describe nouns by telling *size, shape, color, age, and how much*. Emphasize that writers spend careful thought choosing exciting and interesting words instead of overused, tired, or boring words.

After this short review, focus on the importance of choosing **strong** words to replace **weak** ones. This activity will give your children practice choosing interesting adjectives to use in their writing assignments.

1. Explain that for this activity, each child will try to get enough gold coins to buy a prize. Decide on a realistic number of gold coins they must earn to buy the treat, such as 25.
2. Give the children a set of 12 gray or tan coins. Ask them to choose one and write a weak, overused adjective on it, using the "Weakling Adjectives" box below for suggestions.

Weakling Adjectives

Boring, overused, dull, or vague words contribute to weak, uninteresting stories and poems. Use this list as a guide to help your child identify weak adjectives that may need to be replaced.

kind	nice	pretty	fine	big	little
smooth	rough	good	bad	happy	sad
hard	soft	loud	quiet	dark	light
tall	short	hot	cold	mad	scared
pale	tired	cute	beautiful	delicious	neat

3. Invite children to think of an interesting adjective to replace the weak one they wrote on their paper coin. For example, if one child wrote the word *big*, she could think of the word *gigantic* instead.
4. When your child tells you a more interesting adjective to replace the boring one, write it on the back of a gold or yellow coin and exchange your coin for hers.
5. Ask each child to think of more words that could replace their weak one. The child who chose *big* might think of *huge*, *enormous*, and *humongous*. Write each interesting adjective down on a gold coin and give it to your student. Repeat this activity until she can no longer think of interesting and exciting adjectives to replace the weak one.
6. You can continue this activity with as many weak adjectives as you like for several more minutes. Your children will have fun collecting gold coins in exchange for their gray or tan coins.
7. When your children have earned enough gold coins, invite them to exchange them for the treat.

Game instructions are from *WriteShop Junior Book D Teacher's Guide* bit.ly/MFozZA
Coin pages are from the *Book D Time-Saver Pack* bit.ly/KVIY2G

➡ Through 8/15/2012, take advantage of our **Book D Summer Special!** bit.ly/Lml4ao

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About WriteShop Junior

"WriteShop Junior has changed my little boy into a writer." –Erika, Texas

[WriteShop Junior](#) teaches students in grades 3-5 to write and publish fiction, nonfiction, and poetry using a variety of pre-writing games, graphic organizers, and self-editing tools. This parent-directed creative writing program appeals to many learning styles, and it incorporates grammar using the Fold-N-Go® Grammar component.

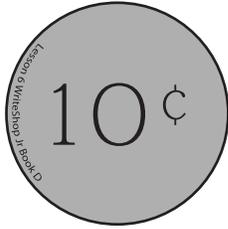
Lessons break the writing process into manageable chunks that are easy to understand and master. Whether you have a more advanced child or one who is just beginning, this program is flexible so children can work at their own level.

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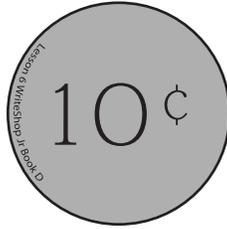
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Activity Set 6:3
Skill Builder

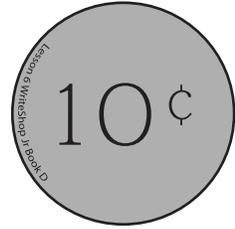
Adjective Exchange Coins (Small)



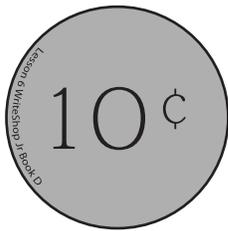
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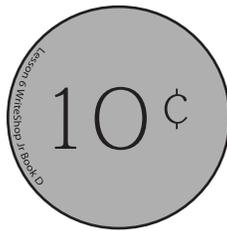
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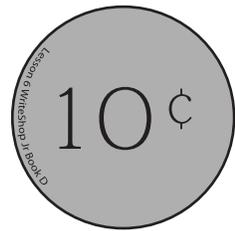
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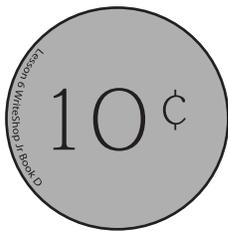
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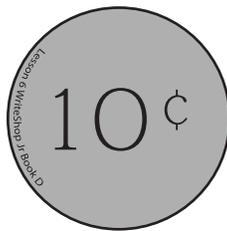
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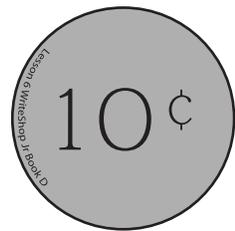
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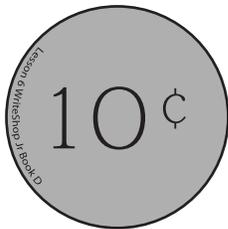
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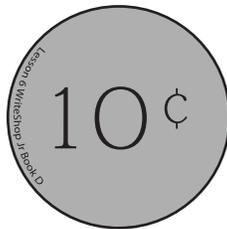
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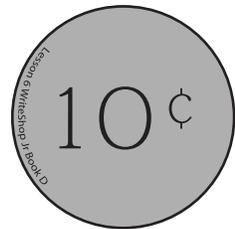
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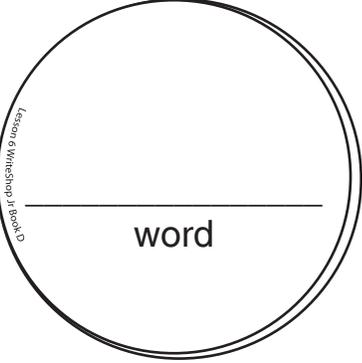
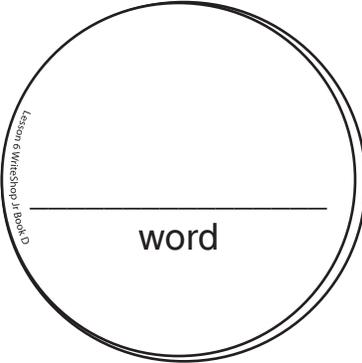
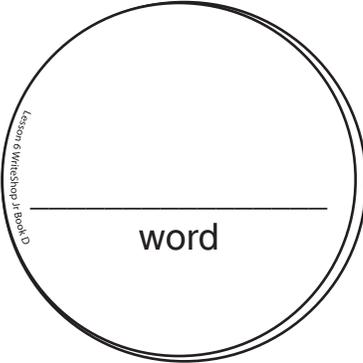
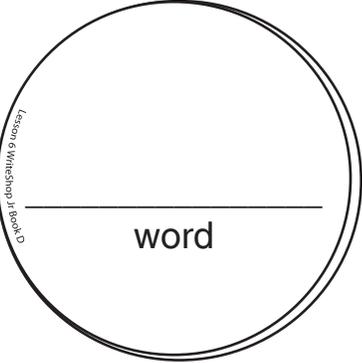
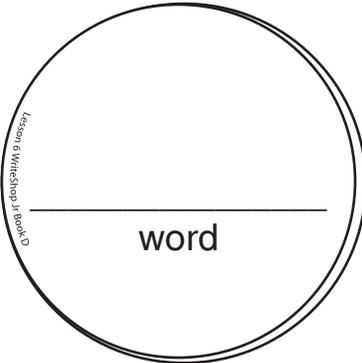
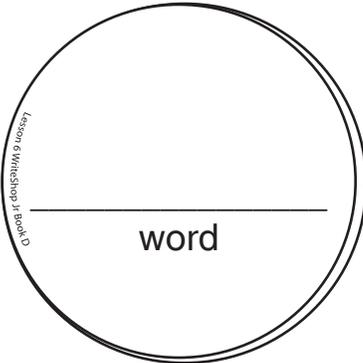
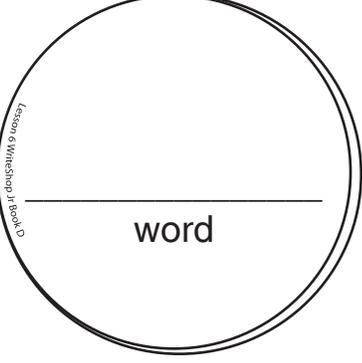
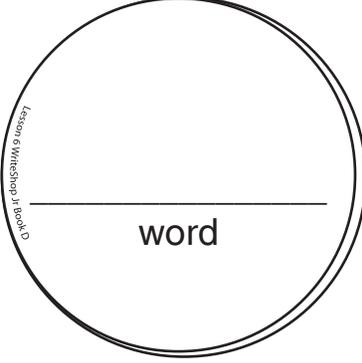
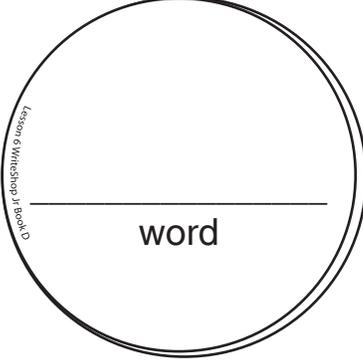
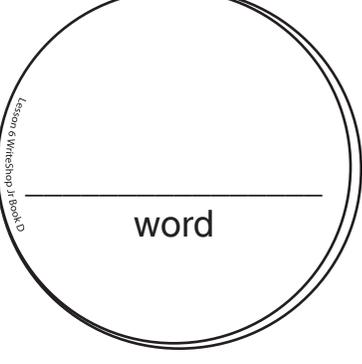
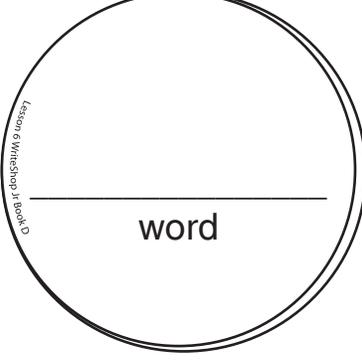
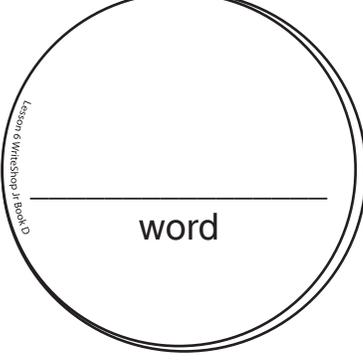


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Activity Set 6:3
Skill Builder

Adjective Exchange Coins

(Large)

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Writing Activity Center Ideas from WriteShop®

Writing activity centers are a great way to reinforce the formal composition skills you're teaching in your curriculum. They'll give your kids more practice writing in a fun, relaxed setting. Whether you create a basket of materials by the sofa or a stand-alone writing desk in the family room, try these different learning center ideas.

Picture Book Mail (grades K-4)

Place a collection of favorite picture books in a basket. Ask your child to read one or more of the books and then write a letter to one of the characters. What could she say in the letter? When finished, have your child place her letter in a decorated envelope, with a sticker for a stamp. Later, you can respond to the letter as the character your child wrote to!



Character Diaries (all ages)

At this center, have your children create the imaginary diaries of favorite characters from books or novels they're reading. Design your own diaries or buy inexpensive ones from the store.

"And Now, a Word From Our Sponsors" (all ages)

Gather a variety of household items and place them in a box or basket. Ask each child to write out advertising copy and create a poster for a product. Why would folks want to buy this item? Remember to keep colored markers and construction paper close at hand, and encourage your kids to do rough drafts and sketches before they begin.

Self Portraits in Words (all ages)

Using mirrors as guides, have your children draw pictures of themselves. Then ask your children how they would define themselves in words. What describing words would they use? Write those words on the paper, surrounding the self-portrait.

Family Portraits (elementary ages)

Draw or paint portraits of each family member, including all the pets! Bind the pages together with a hole punch and yarn. Under the portrait, write a short one-paragraph description about each family member. Include information about characteristics, talents and interests, favorite activities, and more.

Silly Sentences (elementary ages)

Ask each child to write a set number of sentences, some factual and some outright ridiculous.

- A factual sentence might be: *Cheetahs are the fastest land mammals.*
- A silly sentence might be: *Cheetahs drive sports cars.*

Remind kids to use correct capitalization and punctuation. When finished, have them share their sentences with each other. Which are true? Which are false?

Round Robin Stories (all ages)

Make available a timer and plenty of paper and pencils. Have each child begin to write a story based upon the same pre-selected prompt. Set the timer for three minutes. When finished, have the children exchange stories. Set the timer again for three minutes, and have each child begin adding to the story he or she just received. Write until the timer ends, and exchange papers again. Continue in this manner for several rounds of exchanging papers and adding content to everyone's stories.

Let the original owner of each story read the resulting tale aloud, and enjoy the hilarity!

Photo credit: [Candace Nast](#), courtesy of Creative Commons 2.0.

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These [writing center activities](#) and more can be found at WriteShop's blog, [In Our Write Minds](#). Our blog is chock-full of writing and grammar articles, encouragement for reluctant writers and parents, mini lessons, poetry ideas, humor, and more, with tips for all ages and grades.

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20 Writing Prompts from WriteShop®

Younger Children

Let young children write or dictate. Prompt reluctant writers with *who, what, when, where, why?*

1. My family likes to _____.
2. Something I do well is _____.
3. I feel silly when _____.
4. _____ is an important person to me because...
5. I once got hurt when _____.
6. Let me tell you about my favorite _____. (book, dessert, friend, toy, etc.)
7. What if I lived in the _____? (woods, city, ocean, outer space)
8. What if I were as small (big, heavy, light, old) as a _____?
9. What if pets could talk?
10. What if we had no policemen? (trees, friends, cars, etc.)

Older Children and Teens

1. If I could be any animal, I would be a _____ because...
2. If you could do today over again, what would you change? Why?
3. List 10 questions you would ask a historical person you would like to meet.
4. What is one of your favorite books? Tell five things you love about it.
5. If you could have one superpower, what would it be? How would you use it to benefit others?
6. Write a story that includes these words: *hamster, escape, refrigerator, nervous, plan*
7. In 300 words, write about an experience from the point of view of a lawnmower.
8. Have you made a difference in someone's life? Explain.
9. Set a timer for one minute and write down everything you can think of that you might find in a hardware store. Stop writing when the timer rings. Now, write a story using as many words from your list as possible. (The story may not take place in, or even include, a hardware store.)
10. Explain the process of getting ready for bed.