



# VOC-31

Intervention Activities Guide (IAG)  
Blackline Masters



Vocabulary

## VOC-31 Semantic Feature Analysis

Blackline Master available  
www.tpri.org

Students determine a term's meaning by comparing its features to those of other terms that fall into the same category or class. When students have completed a semantic feature matrix, they have a visual reminder of how certain terms are alike or different.

**MATERIALS:** Paper/chart paper, pencils/markers

- 1 Select a general category of study. With younger students, choose concrete concepts such as sports, food, farm animals, boats or board games.
- 2 Create a matrix. Along the left side, list key vocabulary terms or concepts familiar to students within the chosen category. Across the top of the matrix, supply features these words might share. Provide each student a matrix.
- 3 Students use a plus sign (+) to indicate the feature applies to the vocabulary word or a

minus sign (-) if it doesn't. If students mark the same pattern of pluses or minuses for more than one word, challenge them to identify a feature that will differentiate between the terms. This step can be completed by the entire class, in small groups or with a partner.

- 4 Ask students to explain the rationale behind their markings. Explaining their own reasoning and listening to other students' reasoning enhances understanding of the concepts.

**EXAMPLE:** Here is a matrix created for the subject *transportation*.

	two wheeled	four wheeled	one wheeled	foot powered	motor powered	on land	in the water	in the air
bicycle	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-
car	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
unicycle	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-
airplane	-*	-	-	-	+	+	+	+
boat	-	-	-	-	+ -	-	+	-

\* An airplane has more than two wheels, but the specific number of wheels depends on the type of plane.  
An airplane can travel on land for take-off and landing.  
Some types of airplanes can travel on water for take-off and landing.



**PREPARATION OF MATERIALS:** Print the graphic organizer. You may wish to enlarge the graphic organizer so that you can complete the activity together during small group instruction.

# Semantic Feature Analysis

Concept: \_\_\_\_\_
