

Sample Lesson #3:

Expressions Relating to Vegetables

As part of a science/health unit, various food groups are often targeted. This lesson targets expressions relating to vegetables.

1. Ask the students to select three focus words relating to vegetables or salad dishes and to complete Worksheet 3-1 using these focus words.
2. Write “Expressions that have focus words related to vegetables” on the board. Make a list of expressions and discuss their meanings.

BEAN

Use your bean because I know you can find the answer. (think)

BEANS

All the talk doesn't add up to a hill of beans. (is unimportant; is worthless)

Her support doesn't amount to a hill of beans. (is unimportant; is worthless)

I'm not listening because you're full of beans. (not being truthful; bragging; not knowledgeable)

Don't worry because the gossip is not worth a hill of beans. (unimportant; worthless)

Try not to spill the beans about the surprise party. (tell the secret)

CARROT

The boss is dangling a carrot in front of them. (offering something extra to persuade)

CORN

That test was a can of corn. (very easy task)

That's a corn ball idea, so think of something else to do. (silly)

Kansas and Nebraska are in the corn belt. (area where a lot of corn is grown)

That comedian is a real corn ball. (person who is very silly)

CUCUMBER

She's as cool as a cucumber. (very calm and controlled)

OLIVE

They finally did offer an olive branch. (try to stop fighting and make peace)

Someone should throw him an olive branch. (offer peace)

PEA

We were trying to drive through the pea soup, but we had to stop. (heavy, thick fog)

PEAS

They're like two peas in a pod. (very similar; the same)

PICKLE

He is in a pickle. (having a problem)

He's in a pretty pickle. (trouble)

POTATO

He is a couch potato. (person who does not exercise and watches a lot of television)

She should drop it like a hot potato. (stop because it is too troublesome)

Smoking in schools has become a hot potato. (controversial problem; problem that causes arguments)

POTATOES

He's a meat and potatoes guy that works hard every day. (basic and uncomplicated)

He is small potatoes. (not important)

3. Provide students with a list of focus words related to vegetables.
4. Ask the students to write five focus words at the top of the worksheet and to find each entry in *The Expressionary*. The student should then complete the worksheet.
5. Collect the worksheets. Write sentences on the board that contain the expressions.
6. Point out that the meaning of the expression (mnm) can replace the underlined expression in the sentence.
7. Discuss expressions that have similar meanings even though they are slightly different:

All the talk doesn't add up to a hill of beans. (is unimportant; is worthless)

Her support doesn't amount to a hill of beans. (is unimportant; is worthless)

Don't worry because the gossip is not worth a hill of beans. (mnm: unimportant; worthless)

He is in a pickle. (having a problem)

He's in a pretty pickle. (trouble)

8. Discuss expressions that have more than one meaning.

She should drop it like a hot potato. (stop because it is too troublesome)

Smoking in schools has become a hot potato. (controversial problem; problem that causes arguments)
9. Inform students that many expressions containing words related to vegetables have nothing to do with vegetables or meals.
10. Ask students to complete Worksheet 3-2. The student's task is to write down the meaning of each expression and use it in the sentence. *The Expressionary* may be used to look up words.
11. Ask students to complete the matching activity on Worksheet 3-3. The student's task is to match each of the listed expressions with the "best meaning" from the choices provided.