

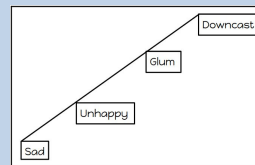
Word Cline

Word Clines help pupils to build, refine and use new vocabulary as they generate synonyms and discuss connotations and nuances of meaning. The children generate words with similar meanings and arrange them to show a graduating intensity, according to a given criterion.

- Select a relevant keyword e.g. family. It is important that the pupils will be able to generate at least four synonyms for this chosen keyword.
- Have the pupils generate synonyms (or words that are closely related) for the keyword, e.g. relatives, kin, people, folks, ancestors, relations.
- Invite the pupils to arrange these words in rising intensity against a criterion such as distant relationship to close relationship.
- Organise the pupils in small groups to discuss the words and reach a consensus about the order of the arrangement. Have them reflect on the factors that influenced the choice of placement.
- As a whole class, discuss how the use of the different words from the Word Cline could impact on your speaking.
- Provide time for pupils to review a selected piece of their own speaking and identify vocabulary that could be replaced with more specific words. (Note: This activity also works well with pupils analysing their writing.)

Activity - Try it yourself ...

1. In our text, we identified the word “sad” for this activity.
2. See if you can generate four more words of similar meaning.
3. Discuss your words and arrange these words in rising intensity on the sheet provided



Bain triail as ...

1. Roghnaigh focal amháin ón téacs.
2. Roghnaigh trí nó ceithre chomhchiallach don focal.
3. Cuir na focail in ord ón gceann is simplí chuig an gceann is casta.

Click [here](#) to view an example of a Word Cline in action in the classroom.