

Changing Labels

Teacher's notes

Starting in Kindergarten teachers have been requested to show students an object and to ask the students, "What do we call this?" rather than "What is this?" This exercise introduces students to the concept that what we call objects or events is merely applying a label, and the same object or event can have any number of labels.

Pick up an object from your desk that may actually have several different labels, such as a notebook. Hold it up and ask the students, "What do we call this?" Prod them for different labels. Then point out that the object did not change when we gave it different labels.

Then hand out page 11-02-01 with the pictures of trucks. Ask them to fill in the blanks. Review their answers. Again, point out that changing labels does not change the object. Also, when we parked them all together, we found a label that fit them all, "Trucks" or "Vehicles".

"I can look at my class and say I have XX (number) of boys and YY (number) of girls in my class. But I can also say I have YY (number) of students (or children, or pupils) in my class. When I changed the labels, did any of you feel the change?"