

TRUCK TEXT

This exercise will demonstrate to the student that ‘things’ can have different labels. These labels can also set the ‘things’ into different categories.

Hand out the truck graphic, 11-02-01, and ask the students to fill in the blanks. When everyone has completed filling in the page, ask for their answers. If all you get for item one is “fire truck”, ask, “Could we call these two red fire trucks.” “Does calling them fire trucks or red fire trucks, change them?”

Items one, two and three are examples of categories. If another red fire truck drove up, we would put it with the first two fire trucks. We would call this category “red fire trucks.”

When we park all these vehicles together, we create a new category, “trucks” or “vehicles.”

We can change labels or categories without changing the ‘thing’ we are describing. We must be careful to choose labels and categories upon which we all agree. Thus we cannot call item one, two houses, or call the five trucks five fish without confusing everyone—including ourselves.

This exercise may seem unduly simple, but accepting the idea that changing a label or category does not change the item, will startle some of your students. Additionally they must accept the idea of choosing labels must be limited to what the hearer or reader would understand. Would you rather drink a bottle of pop or soda? How about a hoagie or sub?