

Prefix/Suffix Challenge

Introduction: Jumping rope is a very healthy way for students to remain fit. This lesson will combine jumping rope with the practice of recognizing words with prefixes and suffixes. The lesson aids both the heart and the brain!

Grade Level and Subject: 3rd Grade Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading – 5D
P.E. – 1B, 3B, 5A, 7A

Materials: A jump rope for every student

Resource: *The Ultimate Playground & Recess Book* by Guy Bailey. ISBN: 0-9669727-2-4

Activity: This lesson needs to be completed after the students have had some classroom practice with recognizing words with prefixes and/or suffixes.

Each student will proceed to the playground. He or she should have a jump rope approximately 6-7 feet long. Also, each student should have been previously instructed on how to hold and turn the rope properly before beginning this activity.

Once on the playground, the students will arrange themselves in a large circle with at least 3 feet between themselves and the other students. The teacher should stand in the middle of this circle so that he or she can be heard by every student.

The teacher will begin the lesson by calling out a word. The word can be a base word, have a prefix, or have a suffix. If the word is simply a base word, the students will stand without using the rope. For example, the teacher may call out the word “eat.” The students, recognizing that this word has no affixes added to it, will stand still. If the teacher calls out a word with a prefix attached to it, the students will perform the “jogging (or alternate foot) step” jump rope pattern. This task has the students use a running step while alternating the landing on the right and left foot as the rope passes underneath their feet. For example, if the teacher calls out “rewind,” the students will run in their area and begin to jump rope using the method listed above. The students should be allowed to jump rope with this method for about 15-20 seconds. The teacher will give a signal, and the students will return to their original position. Once all students are back in place, the teacher will call out another word. If the word contains a suffix, the students are to jump rope using the “boxer” method. While jumping rope, the students are to jump twice on the right foot, then twice on the left foot. They will continue this pattern of jumping rope for 15-20 seconds until the teacher gives the signal to return to the starting position. An example of a word containing a suffix would be “enjoyable.”

The teacher may continue calling out words until he or she feels that the students are ready to return to the classroom.

Evaluation: The teacher will monitor the students closely. It will take some time for the students to feel comfortable with the two types of jump rope methods. During this activity, the teacher wants to observe the students to see which ones are unsure of which jump rope pattern to use (this will mean that they may not be sure if the word contains a prefix and/or a suffix). For those students, the teacher will want to provide more instruction with prefixes and suffixes.



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