

Spaghetti Scrutiny of Synonyms

Scheme

My zygote of an idea is that synonyms are one key to getting higher scores on reading comprehension tests. But I am willing to be wrong. So, this poster is to introduce my idea with the main goal of getting some feedback on the idea so as to expand and improve it.

Setting

Reading Course Focus

Learning synonyms
Learning conjunctions
Identifying the Subjects & Verbs

Student Spectrum

Three Classes

TOEIC average	TOEIC average	TOEIC average
340	396	464

Sample Word Ladder

a 3-letter word that is a synonym of <u>pretend</u>	a _ _ _
add 1 letter for a synonym for <u>reality</u>	_ _ _ _ _
change 1 letter for a synonym for <u>quick</u>	_ _ _ _ _
change 1 letter for a synonym for <u>remain</u>	_ _ _ _ _

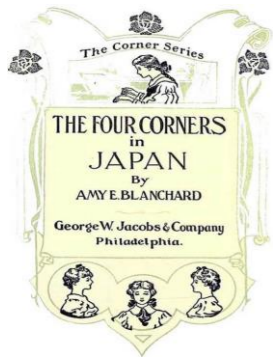
Word Ladder for you!



Start with a job held by <u>many</u> a <u>JALT</u> <u>joiner</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change the first 2 letters for an <u>illegal</u> <u>animal</u> <u>purloiner</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters for <u>the</u> <u>main</u> <u>thrower</u> in a game of baseball	_ _ _ _ _
And then change 2 letters to go to the <u>cooking</u> <u>hall</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters and meet <u>Hogwarts'</u> <u>graduated</u> <u>lasses</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Take 1 lass and change 1 letter then <u>look</u> at her with glasses	_ _ _ _ _
Change 1 letter for a <u>game</u> on a soccer ground	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters so Minnie can join Cab as he <u>bums</u> <u>around</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Next change the last 2 letters to and become a bit <u>morose</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters for a <u>2 a.m.</u> <u>call</u> ... No, wait, that's too gross	_ _ _ _ _
Go back to glum, and change 1 letter for <u>Lightyear's</u> <u>chum</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change the first 3 letters for the cowboy's <u>salutation</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters and go plural for more than one <u>avocation</u>	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters to see a horde of <u>undead</u> on Halloween	_ _ _ _ _
Put the 'b' up front and flip it to a 'p.' Switch the 's' and the 'e' and leave the 'i' be. Change the 'z' and you get a <u>guarantee</u> .	_ _ _ _ _
Change 2 letters to <u>furnish</u> us with the next word we see	_ _ _ _ _
Change the last 2 letters to <u>validate</u> in the form of a gerund	_ _ _ _ _
Changing 2 letters for a quality of the <u>valiant</u> knight errant	_ _ _ _ _
Keep the gerund but change 2 letters and it's time to <u>yamoose</u>	_ _ _ _ _
2 letters changed, so synonyms may help our students <u>peruse</u>	_ _ _ _ _

Situation

Adapted an old novel about a visit to Japan from Project Gutenberg.



The Four Corners in Japan

original
"I feel a migratory fever stirring within my veins," remarked Miss Helen Corner.
adaptation
Helen Corner sat at a table in the living room. She said, "I am going to take another trip."

Taught students to use Google Translate to find synonyms.

	word/phrase	Pos	Japanese	synonyms
This caused her to have a daydream.	cause	v		r e i r e
He was tender, and helpful.	tender	adj		c n g d

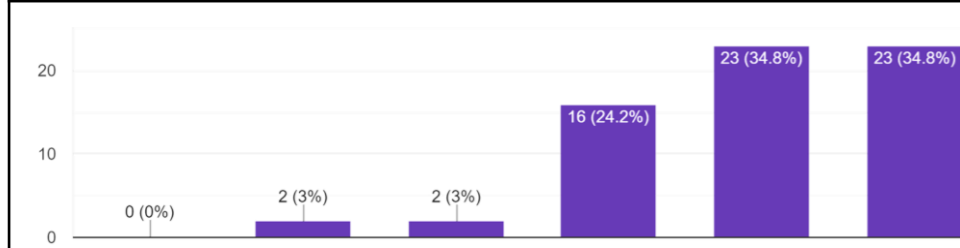
Created questions that stimulated students to use synonyms to answer.

"That is a good opinion," said Mr. Beaumont. "Japan has a long history so no one alive can remember it all. Until you read about it, you will not be able to understand the particulars. I recommend that you read history books to understand the facts. Then, like Neal, read mythology to understand the Japanese spirit. As soon as you finish reading a book or two, you can ask people better questions."

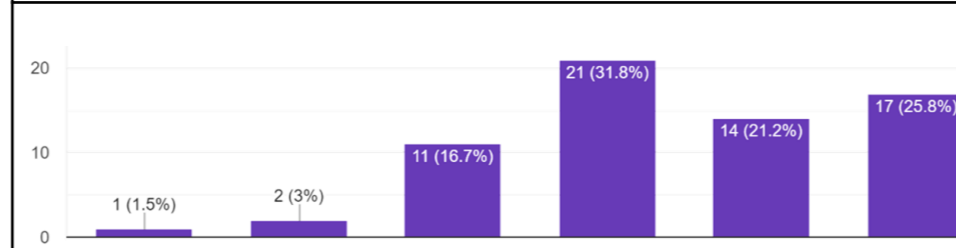
What does Mr. Beaumont suggest in order to understand the heart of Japan?
A) He proposes reading history books.
B) He suggests asking people better questions.
C) He proposes to be like Neal.
D) He suggests reading mythology.

Scores

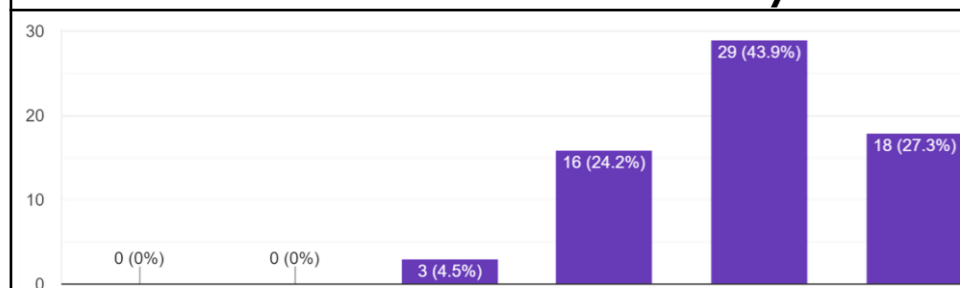
Explain Answers by Synonyms



Expand English Vocabulary



Enunciate Words with Rhyme



Words taught VS control

The average increases in student understanding of the words included in the text vs the control words which were not used in the text.

Included	Excluded
30 Questions / 63 students	
33.9%	21.6%

Expound Japanese Culture

