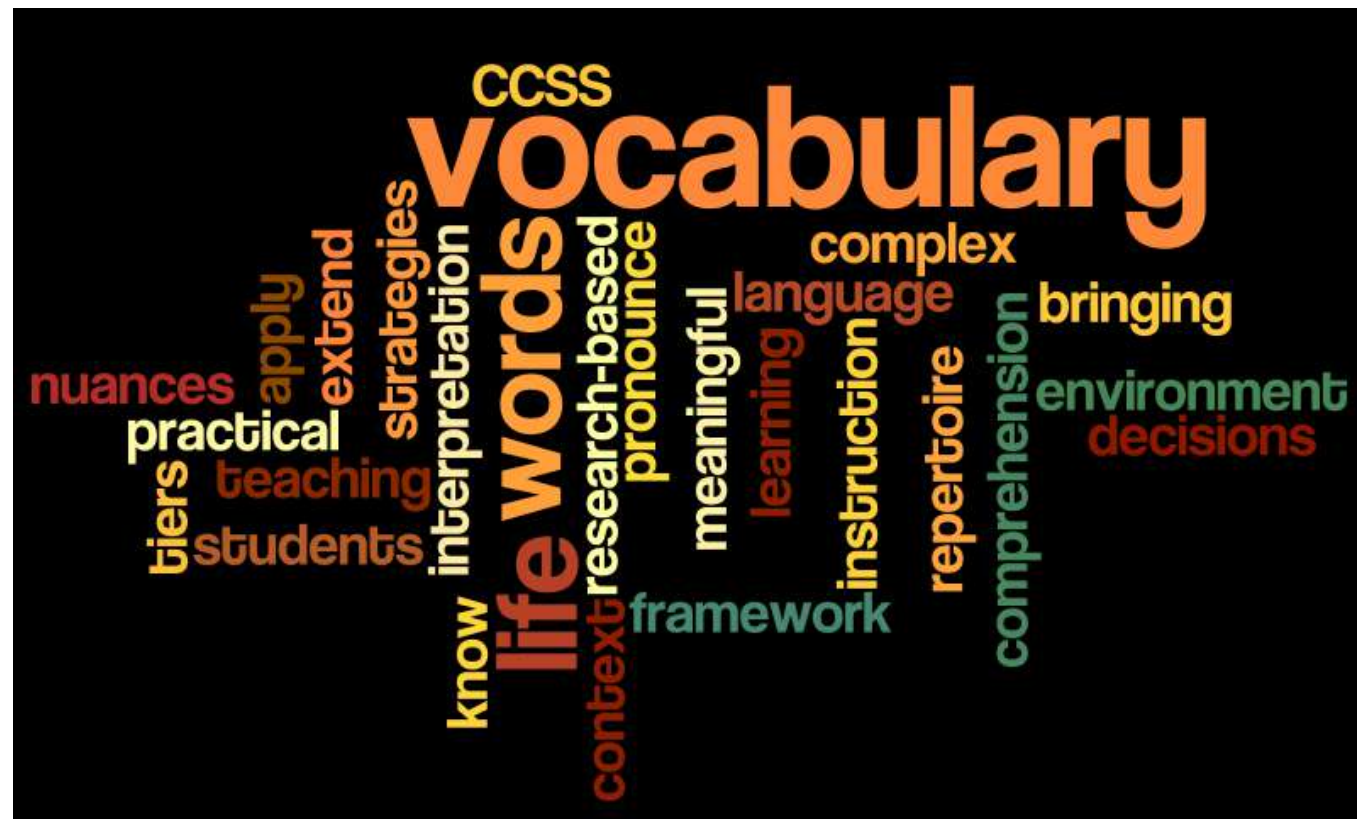
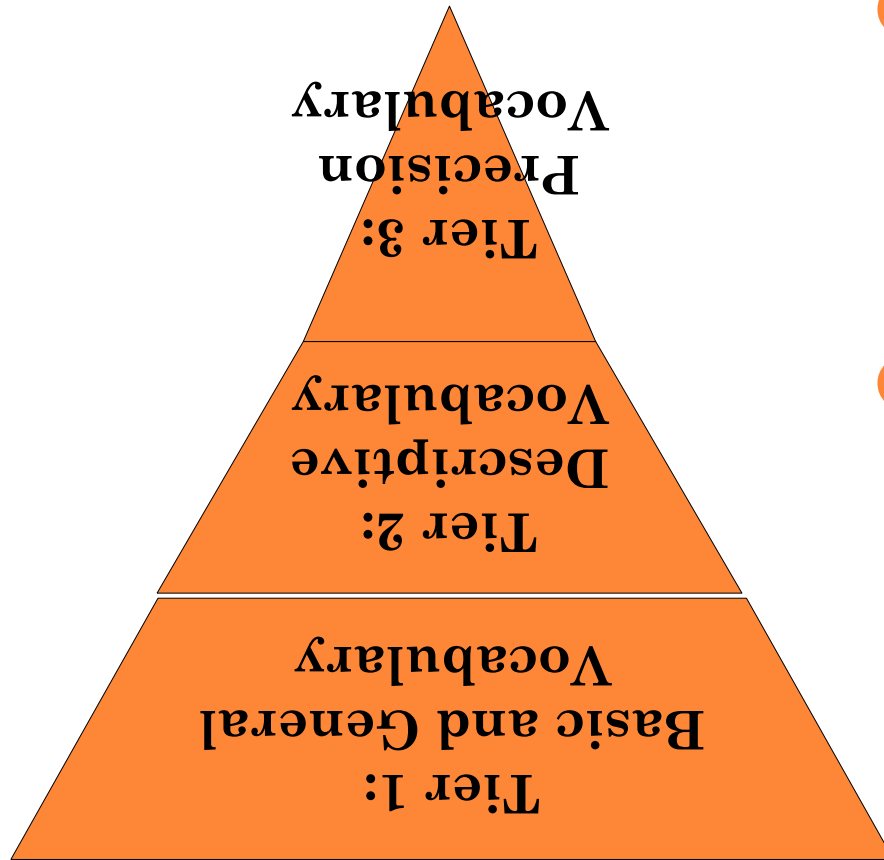


Vocabulary Tiers

Understanding & Applying



Vocabulary Pyramid



- The English Vocabulary is divided into three levels or tiers of words.
- These tiers are based on the descriptive value of the word.



Tier I

Tier I – The most basic words. Rarely require direct instruction and do not have multiple meanings; words of everyday speech

Examples: book, orange, run, numbers, the, solve, addition, subtraction, line, animal, poll, law

High frequency, basic sight words



Tier 2

- ▶ High frequency words that occur across a variety of domains; mature language situation such as adult conversations and literature
- ▶ CONTAIN MULTIPLE MEANINGS, have multiple synonyms
- ▶ Used across a variety of subjects or environments
- ▶ Example: equation, ostracized, experiment, liberal, dribble, nutrition, membrane, impulse, difference, omnivore, exaggerate, masterpiece



Tier 3

Low frequency words very specific to a subject

Specific to hobbies, subjects, occupations, geographic regions, technology, weather, etc.

Examples: chemistry, economics, isotope, amino acid, Revolutionary War, Brooklyn Bridge, feudalism, parabola, isosceles



Example

Tier 1: Old

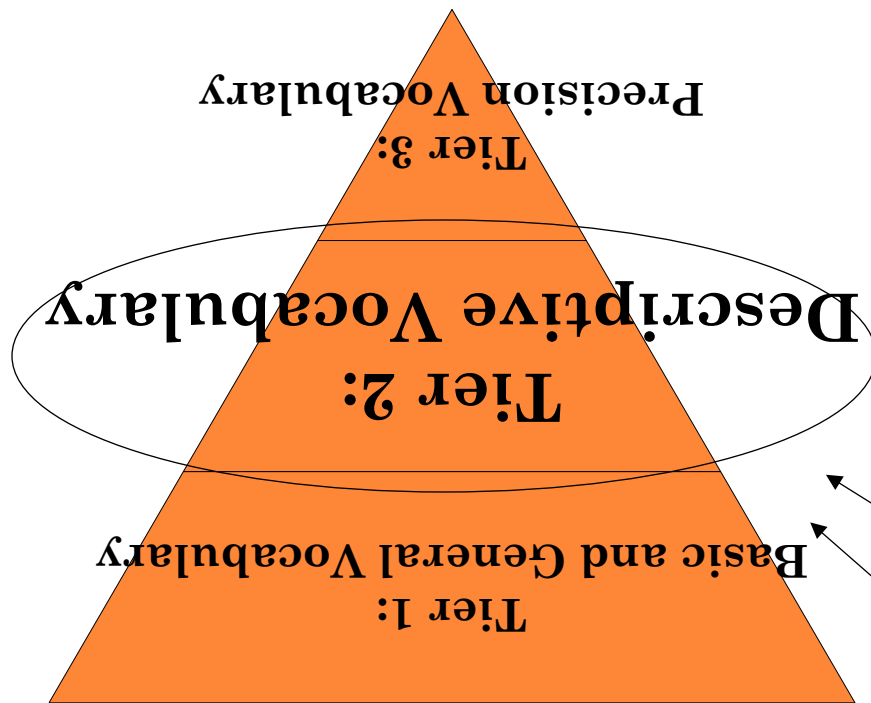


“Old” is a tier 1 word.
It means that
something has age.
Everyone knows
what the word
means, but it is not
very specific.



Example

Tier 2: Old



In tier 2 for the word
“old” we would find
words such as:

enduring

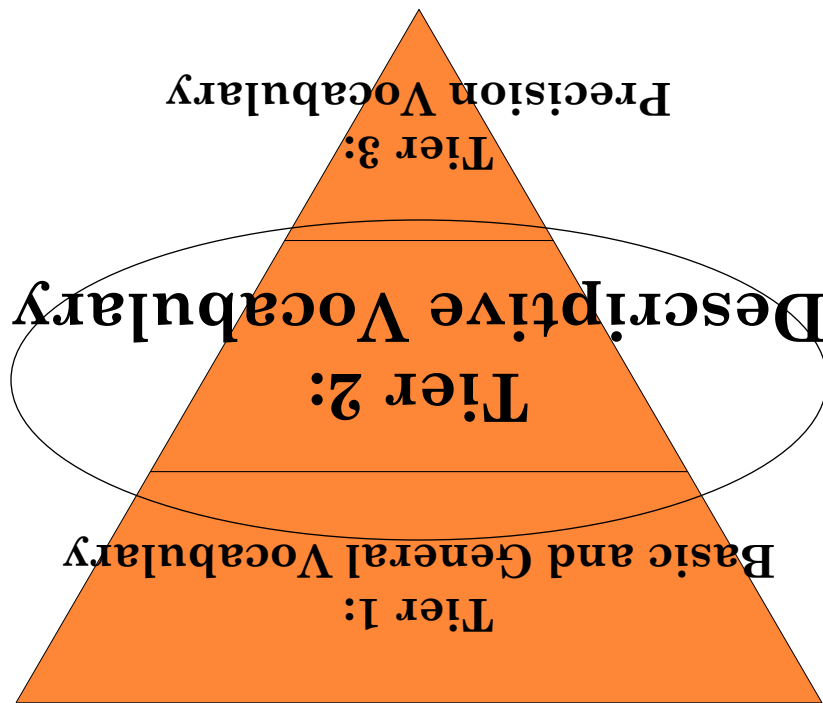
ageing

mature

elderly



Example

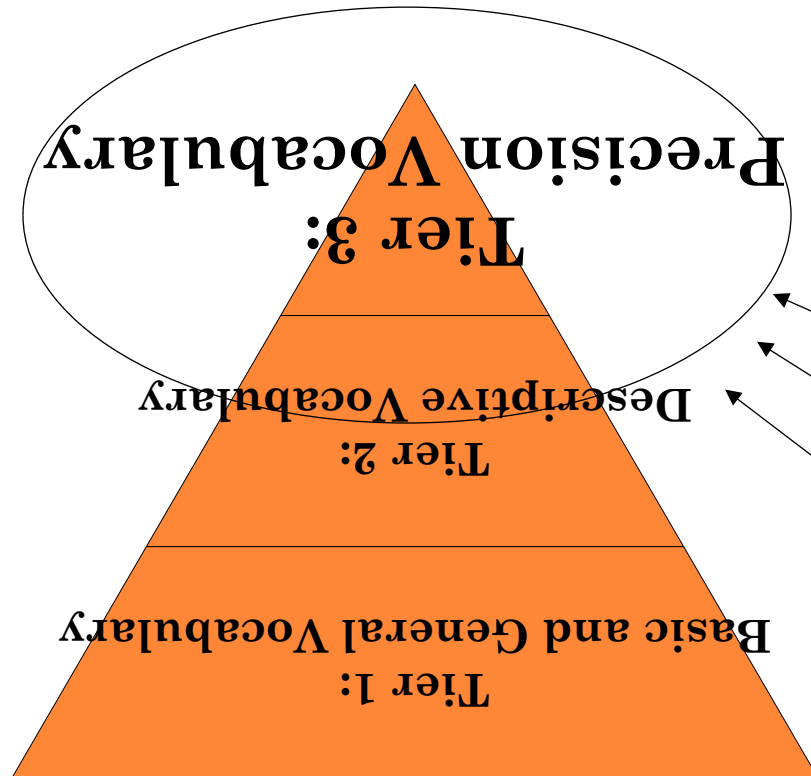


Tier 2: Old

These words are more specific and descriptive than the word “old”, but they still leave room for mental interpretation by the reader.



Example



Tier 3: Old

In tier 3 we find words
such as:

antique

ancient

decrepit



Example

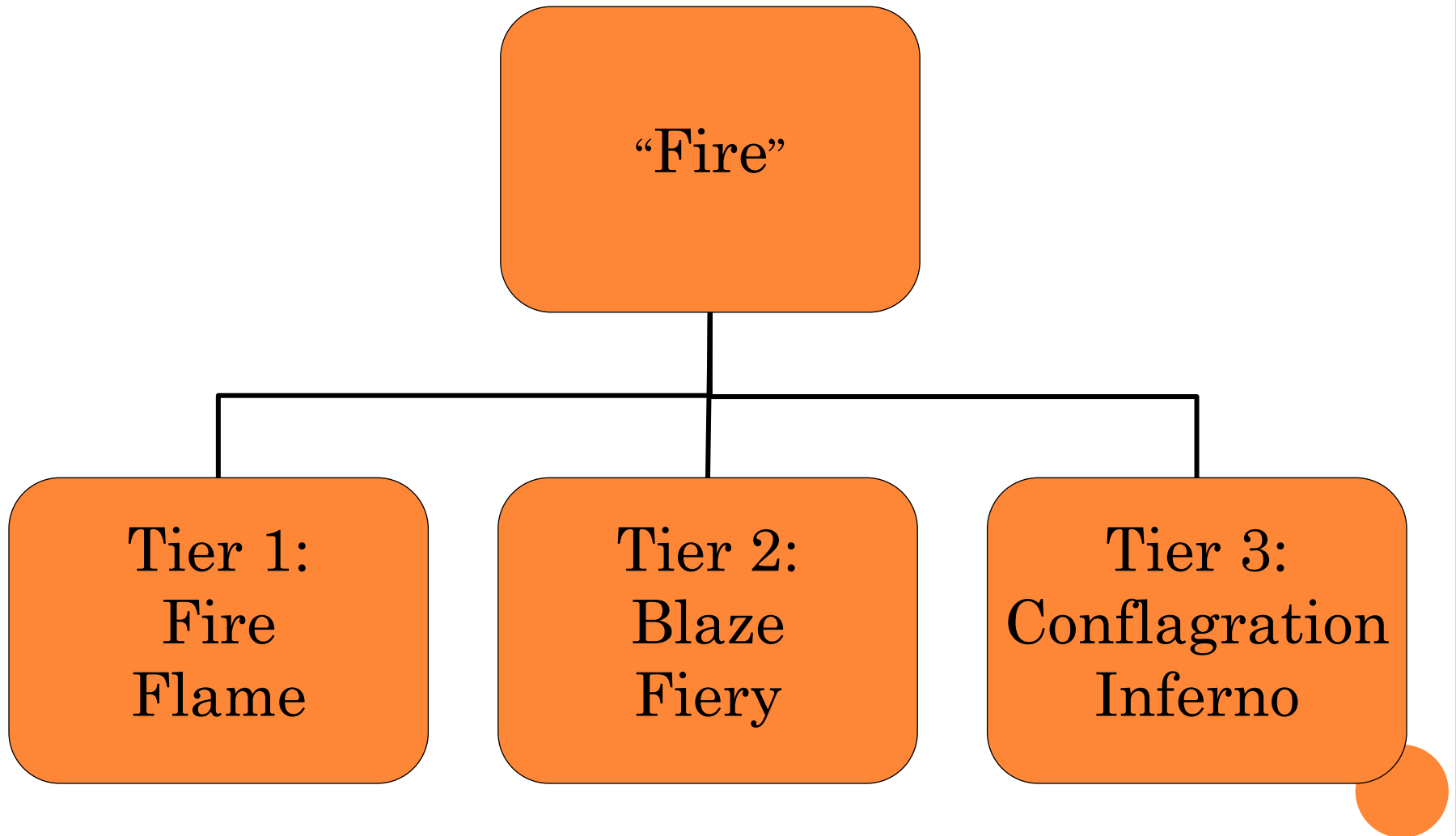


Tier 3: “Old”

This tier contains the most image specific words. Decrepit, for example, brings to mind age that is weak, rotten, and deteriorating.



Other Examples



Maybe think of Tiers as Crayons...

Crayola: Which box will make the best picture?

Box of 8: Brown

Box of 64: Sand, Tan, Khaki, Copper

Box of 120: Almond, Antique Brass, Beaver, Cornflower, Tumbleweed, Chestnut



A Word of Caution...

Now, just because it's in the thesaurus under the entry you just looked up, it does not mean that you should use it.

Words have **shades** of meaning that you need to know before you use them.

If not, you get some very odd meaning sentences.



Example

Let's say you were looking up synonyms for the word "kill" and you came across the word "uxoricide"

So, you write this sentence about the novel *The Lord of the Flies*: "After Piggy and the boys uxoricidaled Simon, Ralph and Piggy had a conversation about what happened."



Oops

Uxoricide – n. one who murders his wife

So...when did Simon become a chick?

And when did Simon become Ralph (or Piggy's) wife?



How to Use the Tiers

Don't over use the 3rd Tier

“The decrepit homosapien gave a heart-wrenching screech as he was consumed alive by the scarlet conflagration.”

Instead, use mostly 1st and 2nd Tier words to make a clear statement and 3rd Tier words for emphasis.

“The old man gave a piercing wail as he was burned alive by the roaring inferno.”



Where can you use 3rd Tier words?

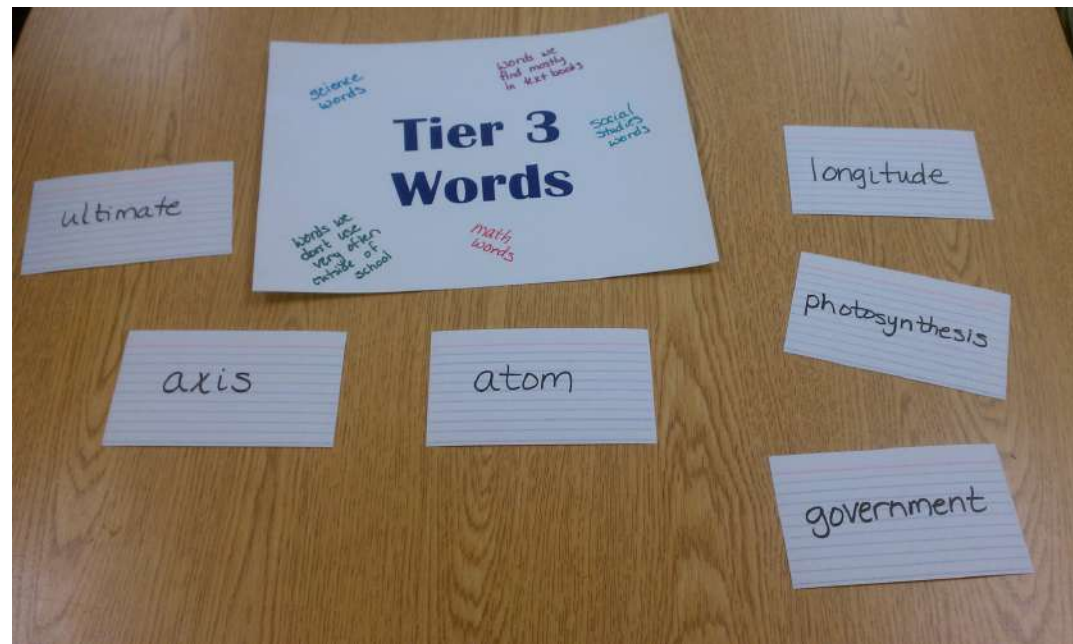
In your Haiku Poems

Activity: With a partner create a Haiku Poem with a Halloween theme using Tier 3 words.



Your Turn

WITH A PARTNER, CLASSIFY THESE WORDS INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE TIERS



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

MONARCHY



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

CONFISCATION



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

THERMOMETER



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

AMINO ACID



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

TRIGONOMETRY



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

LAW



Let's Try It!

To what tier does this word belong?

OXYDATION



Activities to develop tier 3 words

Word Scaling- Start with the Tier 1 word and scale it to Tiers 2 & 3...



Activities to develop tier 3 words

Word Lines

How much energy does it take to...

How much energy does it take to...

Embrace a teddy bear?

Flex your little finger?

Beckon to someone for five straight hours?



Activities to develop tier 3 words

Word Maps

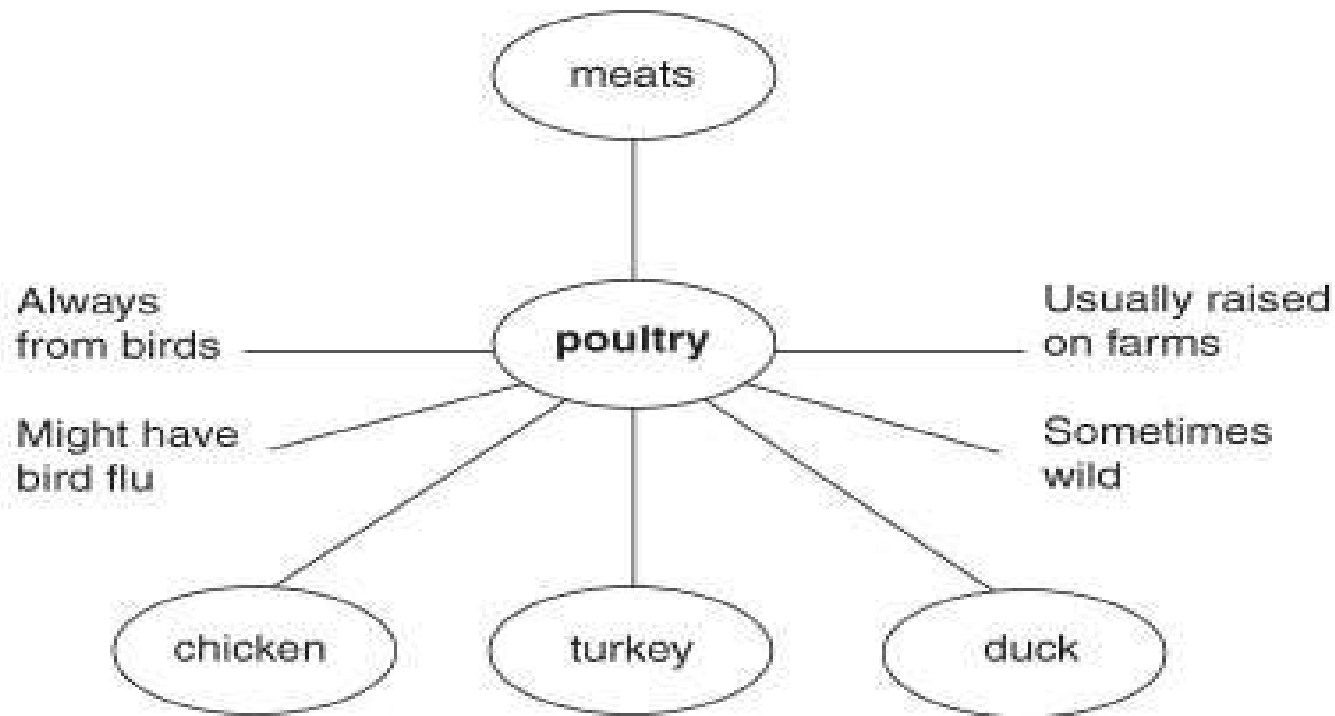


FIGURE 6.3. Example of a word map.

Always remember to choose your words wisely...

