

Supplementary material for 'Attracting Black students to linguistics through a Black-centered Introduction to Linguistics course', by Kendra Calhoun, Anne H. Charity Hudley, Mary Bucholtz, Jazmine Exford, and Brittney Johnson. *Language* 97(1).e12–e38, 2021.

### **Sample Assignment: Word class lists**

This assignment is referenced in the “Dynamic and Interactive Online Teaching” subsection under “Teaching Introductory Linguistics for a Black Student Audience”

This activity was assigned in Week 3 of Year 1 (2018), which covered lexicon and morphology. It is based on English morphology, but students have the option to incorporate other languages that they know and can be made accessible to their peers. The activity was assigned before the lesson on morphology so that students came into the lesson with specific examples of English morphemes regardless of their explicit knowledge of English morphological structure.

## LING 20: Language and Linguistics

### Word class lists

#### Directions:

In any ONE language you are familiar with, select 15-20 words that are a combination of nouns, adjectives, and/or verbs. For ease of comparison and understanding for people unfamiliar with the language, only choose words from languages that use the same writing system as English. Select words in pairs or sets of three so that the words in one group come from at least two different lexical categories, but they are structurally similar and have related meanings.

#### Examples:

- CAT (noun) – CATLIKE (adjective) – CATTY (adjective)
- WORK (noun) – WORKAHOLIC (noun) – WORKS (verb)
- LEARNS (verb) – LEARNABLE (adjective)

There are no restrictions on where you find your words (e.g., Twitter, textbook, song, conversation), and remember that slang is part of language! If the words you select are from a language other than English, provide a translation, as in the Afrikaans examples below. To visually demonstrate how your words are related, arrange them in a table so that the words in a single column are all from the same lexical category (e.g., all the words in the first column are nouns) and all the words in a single row have related meanings (e.g., all the words in the top row are related to the word *cat*). You may also include a list of your words organized by lexical category (see Afrikaans example), but you are not required to.

We will discuss examples from students' lists in the next class meeting, so be sure you can explain (1) why you think each word belongs in the lexical category you have chosen (e.g., why *learnable* is an adjective) and (2) the relationship in meaning between the words in each group.

### TABLE EXAMPLES

Note: color is added to emphasize word groupings; you are not required to color code your tables.

#### MAINSTREAM U.S. ENGLISH

<i>NOUNS</i>	<i>ADJECTIVES</i>	<i>VERBS</i>
cat	catlike	
	catty	
work	workable	works
workaholic		
learner	learnable	learns
payoff	prepaid	pays
catering		catered
caterer		

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN ENGLISH

<i>NOUNS</i>	<i>ADJECTIVES</i>	<i>VERBS</i>
wife	wifed up	
wifey		
player	playable	play
ass		
dumbass	whole ass X	
		grinds
	ground	grinding

#### AFRIKAANS (South Africa)

<i>NOUNS</i>	<i>ADJECTIVES</i>	<i>VERBS</i>
onafwendbaarheid 'inevitability'	onafwendbaar 'inevitable'	
kinder 'child'	kinderagtig 'infantile'	

padwaardigheid	'roadworthiness'	padwaardig	'roadworthy'	
berg	'mountain'	bergagtig	'mountainous'	
berge	'mountains'			
		verplaatsbaar	'moveable'	verplaas
		sigbaar	'visible'	sien
		eetbaar	'edible'	eet
				'transfer'
				'see'
				'eat'

## Word list examples

### Mainstream US. English

<b>NOUNS</b>	<b>ADJECTIVES</b>	<b>VERBS</b>
cat	catlike	works
work	catty	learns
workaholic	workable	pays
learner	learnable	catered
payoff	prepaid	
caterer		
catering		

### African American English

<b>NOUNS</b>	<b>ADJECTIVES</b>	<b>VERBS</b>
wife	wifed up	play
wifey	playable	grinds
player	whole ass [X]	grinding
ass	ground	
dumbass		

### Afrikaans (South Africa)

<b>NOUNS</b>		<b>ADJECTIVES</b>		<b>VERBS</b>	
onafwendbaarheid	‘inevitability’	onafwendbaar	‘inevitable’	verplaas	‘transfer’
kinder	‘child’	kinderagtig	‘infantile’	sien	‘see’
padwaardigheid	‘roadworthiness’	padwaardig	‘roadworthy’	eet	‘eat’
berg	‘mountain’	bergagtig	‘mountainous’		
berge	‘mountains’	verplaasbaar	‘moveable’		
koei	‘cow’	sigbaar	‘visible’		
koeie	‘cows’	eetbaar	‘edible’		