4-12

Oranges to Oranges Game

For those not familiar with the board game from Mattel®, *Apples to Apples*®1, here's a brief description to help you play the *Oranges to Oranges* Game.

- 1 Five to seven players are dealt five red cards each that are all nouns. Examples could include: "Airline Food," "Football," "Choir Boys," "Bald Eagles" and "The NRA." A pile of green adjective cards is then placed in the middle face down.
- 2 The first player pulls a green card from the adjectives deck, which may contain a word such as "Unforgettable," along with its synonyms written underneath, like "notable, impressive, and remarkable." Every other player must then decide which of his/her red cards the starter would mostly likely consider "Unforgettable" and gives to the starter, face down.
- **3** Once the starter² receives a red card from everyone, s/he shuffles them to retain players' anonymity, turns them over, reads them aloud, and chooses a winner based on what s/he thinks best describes the noun on her/his red card.
- **4** The winner gets to hold on to the green card and the player to the left of the starter selects a new green card (perhaps "Cheerful").
- **5** Again, the other players decide which red card the new person would most likely consider "cheerful." The game continues until one person earns seven green cards³.

Putting Your Own Vocab Twist into the Game

To add a vocabulary twist for your students, make green adjective cards using your own vocabulary words⁴. Have students make them using index cards, cardstock, or use the template (attached). Tell students to write out the word in BOLD, then write the synonyms underneath in smaller, but easy-to-read, lettering.

When completed, substitute your green vocabulary cards for the ones in your purchased or borrowed box of Mattel's *Apples to Apples* and start to play.

Teacher Tips and Tricks for Playing

Divide your room into groups of five so the game moves quickly and students maintain focus. For the one student who would rather not play/engage with other students, ask that s/he watch one group and write down her/his own choices for which noun best works with each adjective (or does s/he agree or disagree with each round's choice?).

You can dictate how many cards one needs to "win" depending on your time constraints, and award "prizes" as you see fit.

As you walk around (or insert yourself into a game), you will hear laughter, groans, cheering and, a general cacophony of happy players. My favorite moment is when someone flips over a new green card and says "I don't know what that word means" and another teammate looks at it and says "Really? That one means...".

With Oranges to Oranges, students learn together and from each other and don't even realize it!

The words used on the example green adjective cards attached are taken from Sadlier's Vocabulary Workshop, Levels A-H (Grades 6-12+). The last card template is blank for you to create your own set of green cards! To learn more about Vocabulary Workshop visit www.Sadlier.com/previewVWEE

- 1 Mattel and Apples to Apples are registered trademarks of Mattel, Inc.
- 2 Who does not get to play a red card, FYI.
- 3 There are variations to these rules in the *Apples to Apples* instructions. Students and teachers are free to play in different ways—you choose which way you like to play!
- 4 Note: you will only want to use the adjectives in your vocabulary list for the green cards; you could inserts the nouns into the red cards if you want.



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