

Vocabulary

## VOC-22 Concept Definition Map

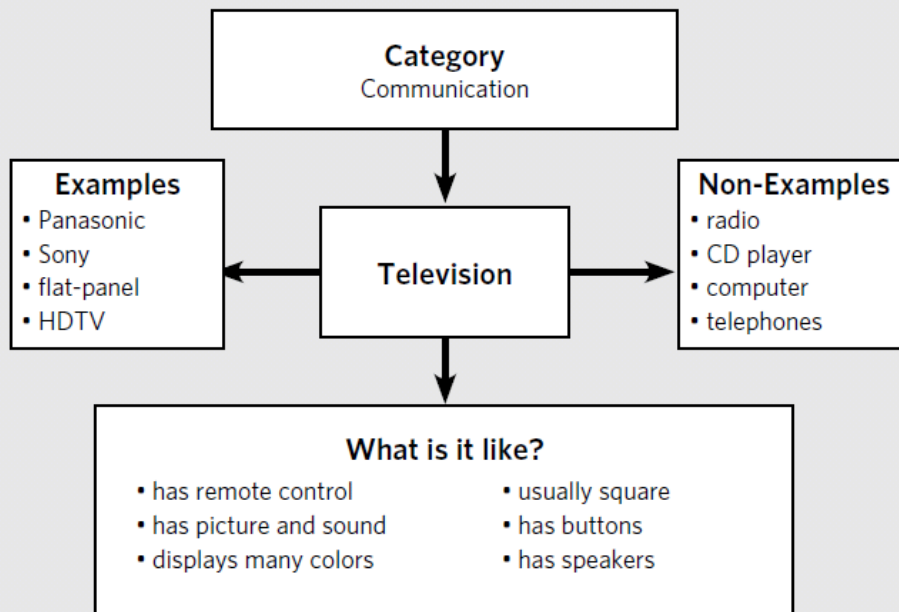
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Students use a graphic organizer to understand the essential attributes of a word's meaning. Because this process requires students to describe what the word is and is not, and to cite examples of it, students develop a more thorough understanding of the word.

**MATERIALS:** Paper/chart paper, pencils/markers

- 1 Prepare and display an example of a concept definition map. Give each student a blank map.
- 2 Review the chosen word or concept by reading it in sentences. Doing so provides students a context for determining the word's meaning.
- 3 Discuss the questions a definition should answer, recording answers as they're discussed. Ask students:
  - What is it? What broader category or classification of things does it fit into?**
  - What is it like? What are its essential characteristics? What qualities does it possess that make it different from other things in the same category?**
  - What are some examples of it?**
  - What are some non-examples of it?**
- 4 Model how to use the map by selecting a familiar vocabulary term from a social studies or science unit and mapping its features.
- 5 Lead a discussion of how students can use the map's information to write a definition of the chosen word.
- 6 Select another familiar vocabulary word and have students work in pairs or individually to answer the questions.
- 7 After students complete their maps, have them write a complete definition of the concept using information from their maps.
- 8 As the unit progresses, encourage students to refine their maps as they learn additional characteristics and examples of the concept.

EXAMPLE:



# Concept Definition Map

