

Functions

Guided Discussion

Say this: One thing you do a lot when you talk about things is you talk about what things do. This is called their function.

Ask: Do you know what functions are?

Say this: Functions are what things do. You use functions a lot when you talk about words. Knowing them helps you words and helps you show that you know words.

Give examples: "For example, if I ask, 'What is a pencil?' what could you say? You could say it's long and has a point and eraser, but the best thing to say is probably what it does. What does a pencil do? It writes. This is its function." This works for a lot of words. What is a vacuum? What is a ladder? What is a notebook?" Provide as many examples as necessary.

Check for understanding: So, what is a function?

Guided Practice Ideas

Quick Drill

Instruct students to provide functions at appropriate levels. Provide answers as necessary to achieve near 100% accuracy. Some examples:

Pre-Academic

What does a telephone do? It helps you talk with distant people.
What does a car do? It drives you places.
What does glue do? It sticks things together.
What does an eraser do? It erases boards or paper, so you can write.

Early Elementary

What does a scale do? It weighs things. It tells you how heavy things are.
What does a model do? It makes things easier to understand.
What does a capital letter do? It tells you when a sentence is beginning.

Late Elementary

What does a prediction do? It's a guess about what's going to happen.
What does an adjective do? It's a word that describes something.
What does a symbol do? It's a picture that stands for something else.

Advanced

What does an advertisement do? It helps companies sell their products.
What does a tax do? It's money the government uses to pay for things.