



## Semantic Feature Analysis

Semantic feature analysis can be used to support students to develop a stronger understanding of word relationships. By using the visual matrix, students can examine new vocabulary, visualise connections between words, make predictions and understand important concepts.

### Materials/Assembly

- Paper/whiteboard
- Pencils/whiteboard markers
- Semantic feature analysis template

### Instructions

1. Select the target topic or category for analysis and identify key vocabulary related to the topic/category.
2. Discuss how and why the selected vocabulary targets are related to the topic/category with the student. Then, list each vocabulary word down the left-hand column.
3. Discuss and identify important features of the topic/category with the student. Then, list these features across the top row of the template.
4. Ask student to look across the template and place a '+' if the vocabulary word aligns with each feature.
5. Similarly, the student adds a '-' if a word does not align with that feature. Some words may require both a '+' and '-' if the criteria applies in some instances but not others.
6. Once completed, discuss the similarities and differences between each word with the student to support their vocabulary development and understanding of semantic relationships.
7. Considerations:
  - Complexity of vocabulary can be adjusted according to student's skill level.
  - The approach can be used as a whole-class activity when introducing new content or to support individual learning.
  - Students could complete a matrix specific to each curriculum area or topic and refer to/add to these throughout the term.



## Semantic Feature Analysis Example: Farm Animals

Features Topic	Four legs	Eats grass	Fur / wool	Tail	Hooves
Cow	+	+	+	+	+
Horse	+	+	+	+	+
Pig	+	-	-	+	+
Chicken	-	+	-	+	-
Dog	+	-	+	+	-
Sheep	+	+	-	+	+



## Semantic Feature Analysis Example: Shapes

Features Topic	Equilateral (all sides same length)	3-sided	4-sided	Parallel sides (at least one pair)
Square	+	-	+	+
Rectangle	-	-	+	+
Triangle	+ / -	+	-	-
Quadrilateral	-	-	+	+ / -
Rhombus	+	-	+	+
Trapezoid	-	-	+	+



## Semantic Feature Analysis Template

Features Topic					



## Semantic Feature Analysis Template (B&W)

Features Topic					