



## VOCABULARY BUILDING ACTIVITY

Names of the game: TODAY,  
LET'S BURY THE WORD \_\_\_\_\_?  
LET'S PUT THE WORD \_\_\_\_\_ TO REST?  
LET'S PLAY A WORD WAKE-UP GAME?

### Objective:

- ☉ The student will find and/or identify more precise alternatives for overused, trite words.
- ☉ The students will make use of vivid, juicy and colorful words and make their writing more descriptive and interesting to read.

### Materials

- ▶ Dictionary
- ▶ Student sheet (Activity Master)
- ▶ Word Cards (Activity Master)
- ▶ Headstone graphic organizer

**ACTIVITY:** Students identify more precise words for overused words by playing different games.

- 1) Students get together in groups and find as many words as possible to substitute the one under discussion.
  - a) Taking turns, students select word cards provided by the teacher (e.g., joyful) and match the word card to the corresponding overused word i.e., happy).
  - b) Using big sheets of paper per team, students come up with different words to use instead of the dead word and write them.  
When everybody is done, the teams present their work.
  - c) At the end, the students are required to write sentences to illustrate the usage of the new words in context.

# Modeling the activity

**Teacher says:** We need to make our language more accurate, more varied, and more colorful. For example, imagine you want to find a better word to use instead of “**very happy**” in this sentence.

I was very happy to hear about the new job.

**This is what you do:**

- 1) Think of a word which expresses the basic meaning of what you want to say.
- 2) Find another word to replace the **dead word**.
- 3) Now use this word to improve your sentence.

**One student says:** Oh, I think I know one word. What about the word **delighted?**

**Teacher asks:** Can you use this word to improve your sentence?

**One student says:** Yes. I was **delighted** to hear about your new job.

**Another student gets involved and says:**

I know other words too. What about the words **pleased, overjoyed?**

And you go on like that until you find as many words as possible to express that idea.