

## ANALOGY WORD PROBLEMS

Directions: Use this Teacher Page to deliver a lecture on analogy. Do not hand this page out to the students. Instead, conduct the lecture, having students take notes.

- I. Analogy Word Problems – Tell the students to take out their paper and pencils and take notes on the following information. Then tell students that the word analogy also describes a type of word problem that often appears on standardized tests. It is made up of two word pairs, like this:

INTERESTED : BORED :: old : \_\_\_\_\_

- II. Solving Analogies – Your goal in solving an analogy is to find a word that correctly completes the second pair. Although it may sometimes appear that the words in an analogy have nothing to do with each other, they are always related. Both pairs of words have the same kind of relationship (hence the term “analogy,” describing a similarity). To solve the analogy, the first step is to figure out what the relationship is between the first pair of words. Read the analogy like this:

*"Interested is to bored as old is to 'blank'."*

- III. Ask the students: What is the relationship between *interested* and *bored*? (Answer: They are antonyms—words that have opposite meanings.) The second pair of words must also be antonyms. Fill in the blank with a word that means the opposite of *old*, (*young*) and you've solved the analogy.

- IV. Relationships in Analogies – Besides antonyms, the word pairs in an analogy could have one of these types of relationships:

- **synonyms**, or words that have the same or similar meanings, as in WORK : LABOR
- **descriptive**, in which one word describes the other word, as in HARD : ROCK
- **part to whole**, in which one word is a part or piece of the other, as in PAGE : BOOK
- **item to category**, in which one word names something that falls into the group named by the other word, as in DESK : FURNITURE

Here's an example:

PUPPY : DOG :: duckling : \_\_\_\_\_

The analogy is read "Puppy is to dog as duckling is to 'blank.'" The first pair of words is not related in any of the ways listed above. Try reading the analogy as a sentence that expresses the relationship between the words: "A puppy is a young dog, like a duckling is a young . . ."? The answer is duck.

- V. Practice Analogy – Now, ask for volunteers to come up with an analogy for each type of relationship listed above. You will supply the first pair of words, and the class must determine the relationship and decide on a second pair of words that expresses the same relationship. Here are some examples you could begin with:

**Synonym:** HUGE:GIGANTIC (Have students guess the relationship and give a comparable pair of words.)

**Descriptive:** MOUNTAIN:HIGH

**Part to whole:** PETAL:FLOWER

**Item to category:** SKYSCRAPER: BUILDING

**Antonym:** GLOOMY:CHEERFUL

