

# Semantic feature analysis: For help in comparing terms

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**Instructions:** This lesson will help you learn how words and ideas are connected to one another.

**Directions:**

1. Think about the topic you are reading about.
2. Think about and list examples related to that topic. Write these examples in the first row of the chart.
3. Think about and list features or characteristics of that topic. Write these features or characteristics in the first column of the chart.
4. Place a + in the cell if the example has that characteristic, a - in the cell if the example does not have that characteristic, and leave the cell blank if you do not know for certain.
5. As you read, add more examples and/or more characteristics.

The topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristics	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

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## This lesson will help students practice:

- ▶ Comparing and contrasting characteristics across examples, thereby understanding vocabulary in a variety of contexts.
- ▶ Identifying characteristics of examples related to a key concept.
- ▶ Evaluating possible solutions if the examples are solutions to some problem in CTE.
- ▶ Understanding degrees of evidence across multiple examples.

## Teaching suggestions for initial use:

1. Practice through an example with students.
2. Ask students to identify the basic examples and characteristics for the first couple of times students use the semantic feature analysis.
3. Use semantic feature analyses when you want students to be able to compare and contrast a list of characteristics.

## Teaching suggestions for repeated uses:

1. You might ask students to adapt the matrix by adding information to define the characteristics instead of + or – with future applications.
2. Instead of generating characteristics for the examples, ask students to generate questions to be answered across all examples.
3. Ask students to use the information to propose a solution or rank order the examples based upon multiple characteristics and write a summary to support their conclusions.

## Student edition/example:

### The topic: Careers in Health Sciences

Characteristics:	Registered Nurse	X-Ray Tech	Pediatrician	Surgeon	EMT
1. Requires education beyond HS	+	+	+	+	
2. Requires bachelor's degree	-		+	+	-
3. High pay	+	+		+	
4. High demand	+	+		+	
5. High stress	-	-	-	+	+
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					