

# Word Superheroes: Powering Up Our Talk!

## Materials Needed

- Two colors of paper (e.g., Yellow for Tier 1 "Everyday Words" and Blue for Tier 2 "Super Words")
- Markers or crayons
- A simple picture book (e.g., *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* or any favorite story)
- Optional: A towel or piece of fabric to use as a "Superhero Cape"
- A "Word Power" Jar (any clear container)
- Tape or sticky tack

## Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the learner will be able to:

- Identify Tier 1 "Everyday Words" (words we use all the time).
- Recognize and use Tier 2 "Super Words" (fancy words that make our stories more exciting).
- Swap a Tier 1 word for a Tier 2 word in a sentence.

## Success Criteria

- I can find an "Everyday Word" in a story.
- I can use a "Super Word" to describe how I feel or what I am doing.
- I can explain that "enormous" is a super way to say "big."

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## 1. Introduction: The Superhero Secret (Hook)

**Talking Points:** "Did you know that you have a secret power in your mouth? It's called Word Power! Most of the time, we use 'Everyday Words' like *happy*, *walk*, or *big*. These are great, like wearing your favorite t-shirt. But sometimes, we want to put on our Superhero Cape and use 'Super Words'! Instead of just saying you are *happy*, you could be *delighted*! Today, we are going to become Word Superheroes and learn how to power up our talk."

## 2. Body: I Do, We Do, You Do

### Part A: I Do (Modeling the Power-Up)

**Instruction:** Show the student two cards. One is yellow (Tier 1) and says **BIG**. The other is blue (Tier 2) and says **ENORMOUS**.

**Talking Points:** "Watch me. If I see a house, I can say 'That is a **big** house.' That's a good sentence! But if I want to be a Word Superhero, I use my Blue Card power. I say, 'That is an **enormous** house!' Do you hear how much more exciting that sounds? *Enormous* means very, very, very big. It's a Super Word!"

- Model another pair: **SAD** (Tier 1) vs. **MISERABLE** (Tier 2).
- Model another pair: **RUN** (Tier 1) vs. **SPRINT** (Tier 2).

## Part B: We Do (The Word Match-Up)

**Instruction:** Lay out three Yellow Cards (Everyday Words) and three Blue Cards (Super Words) face up. Help the student match the pairs.

- **Pairs to use:** *Mad/Furious, Small/Tiny, Look/Examine.*

**Activity:** Act it out! "Let's *look* at this toy. (Peer at it). Now, let's *examine* it like a scientist! (Get very close, pretend to use a magnifying glass). Which word felt more like a superhero word?"

## Part C: You Do (The Great Story Swap)

**Instruction:** Read a page from a favorite picture book. When you come across an "Everyday Word" (like *scared, go, or pretty*), pause and let the student "Power it Up."

**Task:** "The little mouse was **sad**. Can you use a Super Word to tell me how the mouse feels?" (Encourage words like *gloomy, upset, or unhappy*).

**Creative Task:** Have the student draw a picture of something "Big" and something "Enormous." Ask them to describe the difference using their new words.

## 3. Conclusion: The Word Power Jar

**Recap:** "You did it, Word Superhero! Today we learned that Everyday Words are Tier 1, and our shiny Super Words are Tier 2. We use Super Words to help people see exactly what we are thinking in our brains."

**Closing Activity:** Every time the student uses a "Super Word" (Tier 2) correctly during the rest of the day, they get to put a "Power Pebble" or a piece of colored paper in the Word Power Jar. When the jar is full, they get a "Superhero Treat" (like an extra story or a special snack).

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## Assessment (How do we know they got it?)

- **Formative (During):** Can the student match the Tier 1 card to the Tier 2 card during the "We Do" phase?
- **Summative (End):** Give the student a Tier 1 word (e.g., *Walk*). Ask them to show you a "Tier 2" way to say it (e.g., *Stroll, March, or Stomp*). If they can provide or identify a more descriptive alternative, they have met the objective.

## Differentiation & Adaptability

- **For Learners Needing Support:** Use "Emotion Cards" with faces on them. Link the Tier 2 words to facial expressions so they have a visual anchor (e.g., a very frowny face for *miserable*).
- **For Advanced Learners:** Challenge them to use *two* Tier 2 words in one sentence. (e.g., "The *enormous* giant was *furiously*!")

- **Classroom Adaptation:** Create a "Word Wall" where yellow "Everyday" words are connected by string to blue "Super" words.
- **Physical/Kinesthetic:** Create a "Super Word Obstacle Course." To move to the next station, the student must "Power Up" a word provided by the teacher/parent.