

## **Advanced Vocabulary – Making Your Own Meta-thread**

This activity encourages the creativity and inventiveness of your child and students. To design their own Meta-thread your child or student will need a blank t-shirt. You will also need either a permanent marker or t-shirt making kit such as the Hanes T-Shirt Maker.

You can either provide a list of preselected words for your students to choose from, or you can have them consult an age-appropriate dictionary. Another useful resource for older students is the Word of the Day feature on Merriam-Webster's website ([www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com)). Once each person has chosen their word they should practice saying the word out loud. Help them with pronunciation. Each student should then write the word and the definition on a sheet of paper along with two or three sentences that use the word. Check the definitions and the sentences for accuracy.

Next, if using permanent markers, have the students print the word upside down on the front of a blank t-shirt. On the bottom part of the inside of the front of the shirt define the word and compose a sentence that correctly uses the word of the day. If you are using a computer to make your t-shirts, you may have to assist the students in the process. It is especially important to be careful using a hot iron around young children. They should *not* do this alone. Adults should be in charge of being the only ones to use the iron.

This is a fun arts and crafts activity that can be made into creative games with larger groups. For example, select a mixture of new and unusual words and simple verbs, nouns, prepositions and articles. With this mix of words you can have kids or students put on different words in order to create funky sentences or short poems or whatever their minds can come up with! This is an activity that can be done with all age levels, though we suspect that younger minds will enjoy this best (ages 6-12). But when it comes time to wash the shirt, be sure to do so separately from the rest of the family laundry!

Also, this activity is a perfect time to teach your child or students how to properly use a dictionary.