

WHAT IS AN ADJECTIVE?

A Parts of Speech Play

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Setting: English classroom

Characters:

Narrator

Mr. James

Joshua

Emma

Andrew

Lauren

Jonas

Joseph

Lindsey

Lucy

Narrator: Mr. James turned on the TV as his students strolled into the room. There was a sudden quiet as they walked to their seats while watching the screen.

Mr. James: I can see that you are all enjoying the Olympic speed skating event. I want you to watch it very carefully as you take out your notebooks and a pen. *Don't stop watching.* Just write words that describe what you see, like silver blades, or handsome American skaters. You will have 5 minutes to write as many descriptions as possible. Ready? Begin!

Narrator: The students looked around at each other with puzzled looks on their faces. Then, they quickly began writing. After five minutes, Mr. James turned off the TV.

Joshua: (loudly) Oh, no! The skaters were on the second to the last lap! Mr. James, won't you please let us watch to see who won?

Mr. James: All right, Josh, but just until the finish line is crossed and the winners are announced. Then the TV goes off!

Narrator: The students cheered loudly as the fastest skater narrowly won the race. Then the TV was turned off.

Mr. James: All right, class! It's time to get down working with those descriptions you've been writing. Let's hear some of them. Emma, would you write two on the board and then read them.

Emma: Gold Olympic medal, Apolo Ohno's blue helmet

Mr. James: Good. Andrew, write two more on the board, and then read them.

Andrew: American flag pin, tall skinny skater, weird gloves

Mr. James: Good work! You did a good job describing things you saw in the race. Now we're going to concentrate on some of the words you used.

(Reading from the writing on the board)

When you describe or modify a noun or pronoun you use words called Adjectives.

They tell:

- 1.) what kind:..... a gold Olympic medal
- 2.) which one:..... the tall skinny skater
- 3.) how many:..... Six Olympic racers
- 4.) whose:..... Ohno's American flag pin.

Now it's your turn. Write a sentence about the speed skating race using some of your descriptions. You have five minutes.

Narrator: The students quickly moved into their groups, selected a leader, and began sharing their descriptions, then combining them into a sentence. After five minutes, Mr. James called time.

Mr. James: Are you ready? Okay. Let's hear from Group One's leader, Lauren. Read the sentence and name the adjectives.

Lauren: Apolo Ohno's skates are brown with gold and silver blades. The adjectives are Apolo Ohno's, brown, gold, silver

Mr. James: Good, Laura. Group Four's leader, Jonas.

Jonas: Ohno's fast skating won him seven Olympic medals. The adjectives are Ohno's, fast, seven, Olympic

Mr. James: That's right, Jonas. Group Three's leader, Joseph?

Joseph: Two Korean skaters won the gold and silver medals. The adjectives are Two, Korean, gold, silver.

Mr. James: I think you're getting it! Good. Group Two's leader, Lindsey.

Lindsey: Gold medalist Ohno barely won third place in the 1,000 meters. The adjectives are gold, medalist, third, 1,000.

Lucy: I have a sentence, Mr. James! We saw a fantastic speed skating race. The adjectives are fantastic, speed, skating.

Let's give a shout out to Mr. James for letting learn about adjectives in this fun way!