

Word Choice Circle

Match your words to your audience.

GRADE 3 • 3L3.a

3L3.a "Choose words and phrases for effect."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Listen without interrupting.

2 Use the exact starter on your card.

3 Play a card only after you say it.

4 Let each player share a turn.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Put one Topic card where everyone can see it.
2. Each player takes one Role card. In a group of three, leave one Role card aside.
3. Use two copies of the Move cards. Deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns discussing the topic. Complete one Move card starter aloud, then place that card in the middle.
5. Keep taking turns until every dealt Move card is in the middle.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I chose words for my audience.

☐ I used conversational words for a friendly talk.

☐ I used academic words for school writing.

☐ I explained why a word choice fit the audience.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Class Garden Your class wants a garden. Choose words for asking a friend to help and for writing a request to the principal. What could you say in each?	Lost Jacket You found a jacket on the playground. Choose words for telling a friend and for writing a note to the school office. What could you say in each?	Recess Idea Your group wants a new recess game. Choose words for inviting a friend to play and for writing a suggestion to the principal. What could you say in each?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Audience Scout Listen for who will hear or read the words.	Word Mixer Suggest a more conversational or more academic word or phrase.	Reason Finder Ask why a word choice fits the audience.	Card Dealer Deal the cards and make sure each player gets a turn.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
FRIEND TALK “To a friend, I would say, “____.””	FRIEND TALK “While talking with a friend, I could say, “____.””	SCHOOL WRITING “In a school note, I would write, “____.””	SCHOOL WRITING “For an academic sentence, I would write, “____.””
WORD SWAP “I would change “____” to “____” because ____.”	WORD SWAP “Instead of “____,” I would use “____” because ____.”	CHECK AUDIENCE ““____” fits ____ because ____.”	CHECK AUDIENCE “My words should sound ____ for ____.”

Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Run a short round with one Topic card, then switch topics for another round. Use turn order and allow one card per turn so each student speaks before anyone takes a second turn. If participation is uneven, the Card Dealer pauses the round until each player has played the same number of cards.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	To a friend, I would say, "Let's ask for a class garden."
Ben	In a school note, I would write, "Our class requests a garden area."
Carlos	I would change "Let's ask" to "Our class requests" because it sounds more academic.
Deja	"Our class requests" fits a note to the principal because it sounds respectful.
Ava	For an academic sentence, I would write, "A garden would help us study plants."

LISTEN FOR

- Names the listener or reader before choosing words
- Uses casual language for a friend
- Uses respectful, precise language for school writing
- Explains how the word choice fits the audience

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.