



COMPARING CHOPSTICKS WITH FORKS AND KNIVES

This is a non-fiction writing piece comparing the use of chopsticks vs. a fork and knife. If possible, bring chopsticks, forks and a snack or candy for the students.

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA.LITERACY.W.K.2, W.1.2, W.2.2, W.3.2, W.3.2.A, W.3.2.B, W.3.2.C, W.3.2.D, W.4.2, W.4.2.A, W.4.2.B, W.4.2.C, W.4.2.D, W.4.2.E, W.5.2, W.5.2.A, W.5.2.B, W.5.2.C, W.5.2.D and W.5.2.E

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the story line: *“You’re going to compare the use of chopsticks and a fork and knife using facts. This is a non-fiction piece so we will only use information and not our own opinion. You will not write I or my.”*
2. Give each student a set of wooden chopsticks and a plastic fork and knife to hold and handle.
3. Using a T-Chart on the board, brainstorm information about chopsticks versus forks and knives.

CHOPSTICKS

GEOGRAPHY

Asia-China, Japan, Korea

MATERIAL

Usually wood or plastic
Occasionally metal
2 sticks for pinching food

CUTTING

Meat is cut before cooking
Meat is served in small pieces
Chopsticks pick up small pieces.

FORKS and KNIVES

North America, South America,
Africa, Australia

Usually made of metal, not wood
Plastic for convenience
Handle with 4 prongs for poking
Handle with long one-sided blade for

Meat is cut after cooking
Meat is served in large pieces
Forks and knives cut the large pieces
The side of a fork can be used to cut
soft foods like eggs or cake

BOTH are used to eat food and can be used for twirling noodles



4. Write the words USE, USED and COMMONLY on the board. These are words that are often misspelled. Encourage the writers to use at least one, if not all of these words in their writing.

5. Show the 5 Sections:

Engaging Introduction
Main Idea/Similarities
Chopsticks
Forks and Knives
Conclusion

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section, 2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.

6. Encourage writers to use any of the following words in their writing:

First of all, In contrast, For example, especially, another, also, because, and, more, but

Now to write!

Show the following 5 sections on the whiteboard. Then, guide the students through each step. They are free to use their own words.

7. Write an introduction that engages the reader. Ask the reader questions about chopsticks, forks and knives.

8. Write the main idea that while chopsticks, forks and knives are very different, there are a few similarities. Write the similarities.

9. Write all about chopsticks.

10. Write all about forks and knives

11. Write a concluding statement.