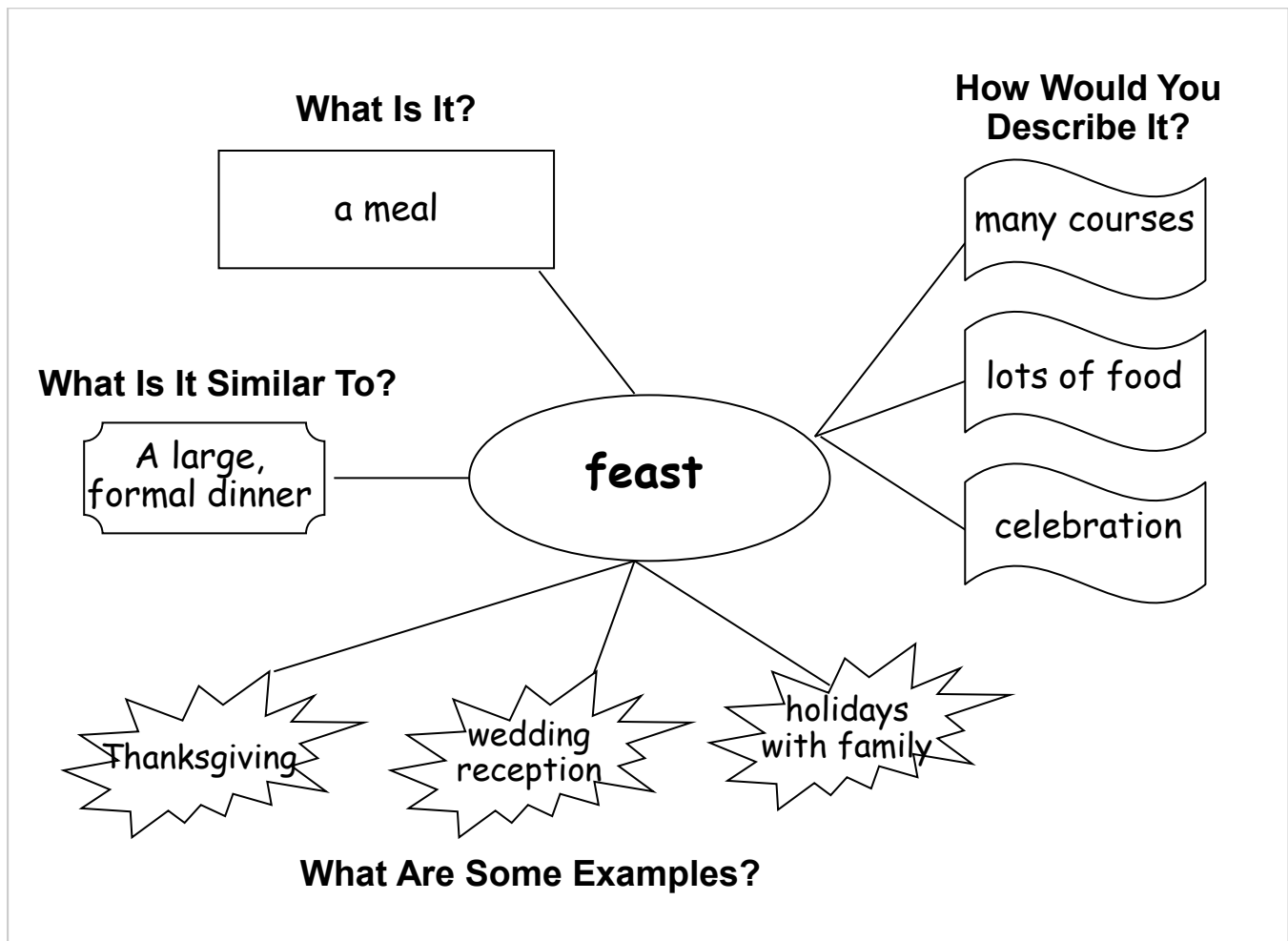


How to Use the Vocabulary Word Concept Map

1. Select a word that is *key* to the meaning of a story or topic of study. For example, the story “A Feast for 10” lists three vocabulary words: platter, feast, and family. From the title alone, we can assume that “feast” will represent the greatest concept of this story.
2. Use this concept map before, during, and after a reading selection/lesson in which the key word will be read or taught. Introduce the word before the story is read, fill in a few bubbles as you read, and complete the map at the conclusion of the story. For example:



3. Create a definition of the concept word, using the words from the bubbles. For example:
*A **feast** is a meal. A feast has many courses, lots of food, and is often a celebration. Some examples include: Thanksgiving, a wedding reception, and holidays with family. A feast is like a large, formal dinner.*
4. Compare this definition to a dictionary definition and notice how much easier this definition is for your students to understand. This tool is a great way to connect a key concept to students' prior knowledge and also helps foster “indirect” vocabulary building with, for example, such words as: courses, celebration, reception, and formal.