

Ten Principles of Vocabulary Instruction

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1. Carefully select high utility words that students do not already know.
2. Provide direct instruction, multiple exposures and opportunities to practice new words.
3. Teach concepts before labels (new words).
4. Explicitly teach clarifying strategies and metacognitive skills and help students transfer strategic skills to clarifying words in texts.
5. Read aloud at least 25 minutes every day and encourage independent reading (SSR & home reading).
6. Provide exposure to rich vocabulary through classroom discourse (use pictures, gestures, realia to ensure comprehensible input).
7. Encourage students to use rich vocabulary in speaking and writing.
8. Provide small group instruction of tier 1 words for ELL and/or students with poorly developed vocabulary.
9. Increase volume of vocabulary exposure to accelerate vocabulary acquisition.
10. Embed vocabulary instruction in every lesson, every subject area, every day.