

Teaching Tips for Building Vocabulary

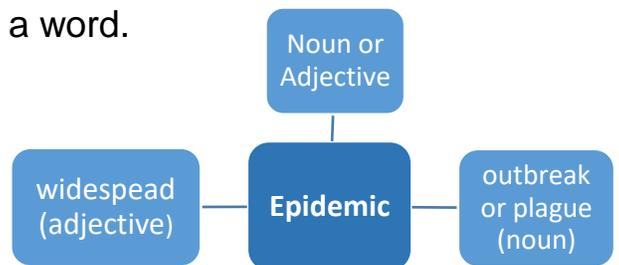
- Understanding a **few key terms** well is more effective than learning a list of words.
- Focus on **five to ten** words a week
- Learners should be **active** in developing their understanding of words and ways to learn.

Learning New Words: Practice with Graphic Organizers

Students need practice organizing information and ideas about the new vocabulary. Graphic organizers allow students to visualize and make connections with new material.

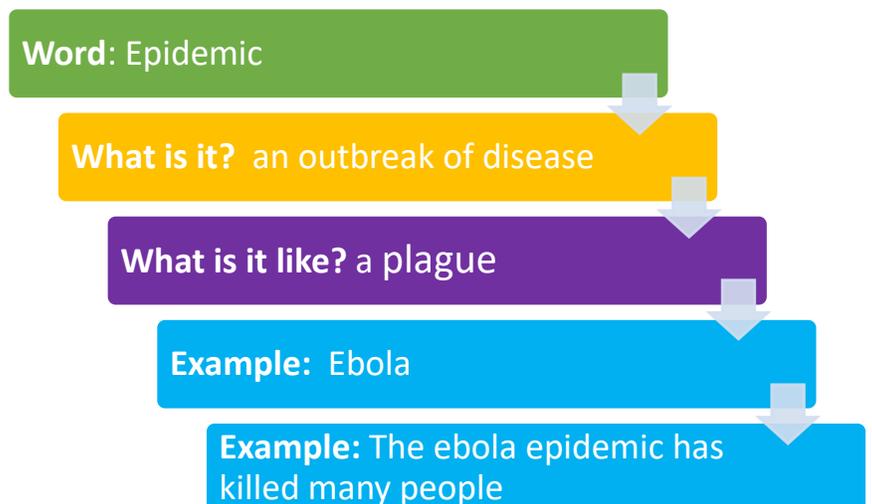
Word Web: used to organize details about a word.

- Write the word in the center
- In each outside circle, write a meaning or characteristic of the word.



Concept Definition Map: used to clarify concepts.

- Write the vocabulary word
- Identify the meaning
- Discuss similar (or opposite) concepts
- Create several examples



Teaching Tips for Building Vocabulary (cont.)

Remembering New Words: Frequent and Meaningful Interaction

New vocabulary is retained when students hear it, see it, read it, write it, and speak it in meaningful ways. Practice using new words frequently.



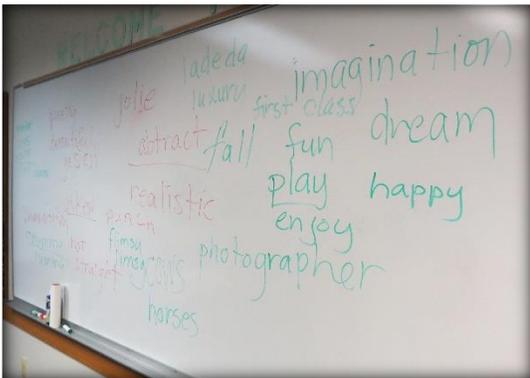
Word Sort:

encourages creative and critical thinking

- Provide sets of vocabulary words
- Student categorize new words into groups.
- Encourage learners to think out loud and communicate their ideas.
- There may be more than one "right" answer.

Closed Word Sort Provide categories – student sorts words into defined categories

Open Word Sort Student sort words into any categories that make sense to them.

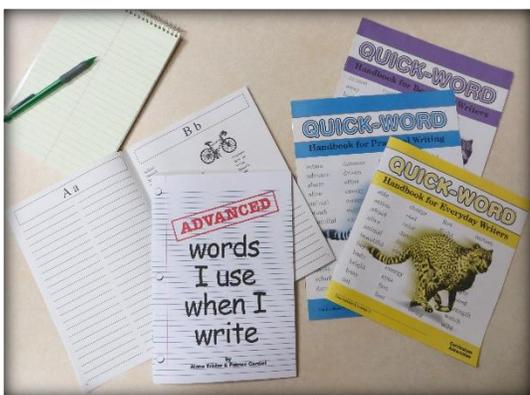


Mad Three Minutes:

practice retrieving recently learned vocabulary.

1. Write on the board all the words that have been the focus of the lesson.
2. Student studies them for a few minutes.
3. Erase the words.
4. Have the student write as many words as possible in three minutes.

Student can also provide a picture or definition of the word.



Personal Dictionaries:

encourages personalized word learning

- Student creates dictionary as an individual vocabulary and spelling resource.
- Student adds unknown words they encounter as they read.
- Work with student to clarify meanings of new words.
- Words in dictionary may be categorized by: Alphabetical order, Subject, Sound, Morphological structure (present tense, past tense, etc.), Content or Topic.

Adapted from "Vocabulary Building Strategies to use When Working with ELL Dr. Maria Torres Director of Diversity and ESOL Ilona Olancin Secondary ELL Curriculum Facilitator <http://old.collierschools.com/ell/docs/tutortrain/SIOP%20Vocabulary%20Strategies%20to%20Use%20when%20Working%20with%20ELL%20students..pdf>