

Actively Engaging Students with Vocabulary

Bringing Words To Life

(Beck, McKeown & Kucan, 2002)

1. Present the word in context.
2. Have students say the word.
3. Provide a kid-friendly definition.
4. Provide examples.
5. Actively engage students to use the word.
6. Provide repeated interactions with the words.

Ideas to actively engage students to use the word

1. Questions, Reasons, Examples

For example: If you are walking around the room you may need to do it cautiously. Why? What are some other things that need to be done cautiously?

2. Making choices

For example: Say astonished if the following things would make you astonished.

You met someone from Mars.

Your friend said hello to you.

You ate a sandwich for lunch.

Your dog said 'hello' to you.

3. Have you ever?

Describe a time when you might 'urge' someone.

4. Idea completion

Provide a sentence stem that requires students to integrate a word into a meaningful context. The skiing teacher said Maria was a novice on the ski slopes because....

Upper Elementary-Middle School

1. Facets of word meaning: Student selects an example that is the better fit.

For example: Example and Non-example

Retort

The player comes back with a quick answer after the referee calls a foul on him.	The player complains to the coach after the referee calls a foul on him.
--	--

2. Relationships among words

For example: Can a virtuoso be a rival? Would you have compassion for someone imperious?

3. Deeper explorations of language-How language gives meaning

Develop knowledge of similarities and differences among words and the precise roles they can play. For example: Imperious is often appropriate for describing a king. How appropriate is it to Tom?