

Building Academic Vocabulary

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Vocabulary Self-Assessment

Word	Know it well, can explain it, use it	Know something about it, can relate it to a situation	Have seen or heard the word	Do not know the word
antipodes				
borborygmus				
cullet				
defenestrate				
grapnel				
hallux				
pellucid				
otiose				
malanders				
polysemous				

Vocabulary Instruction

A. Dictionary Definitions (use the dictionary definitions below to complete this task.)

1. antipodes:

2. otiose:

3. pellucid:

4. malanders:

5. grapnel:

Dictionary

antipodes plural noun 1. places at opposite sides of world 2. opposites

grapnel noun a small anchor with 4 or 5 curved, pointed arms

malanders plural noun 1. blisters or pustules on the neck of horses 2. a variety of eczema around the knee of a horse's foreleg

otiose adjective 1. not effective, with no useful purpose 2. with little or no value
3. unwilling or disinclined to work

pellucid adjective 1. transparent, allowing all or most light to pass through 2. easy to understand, clear in meaning

B. Other Vocabulary Teaching Strategies

1. borborygmus

2. cullet

3. defenestrate

4. hallux

5. polysemous

Types of Academic Vocabulary

From 2 different 4th grade texts:

Excerpt 1: John Harrington was a kind master who treated his servants fairly. He was also a successful wool merchant and his business required that he travel often. In his absence, his servants would tend to the fields and maintain the upkeep of his mansion. They felt fortunate to have such a benevolent and trusting master.

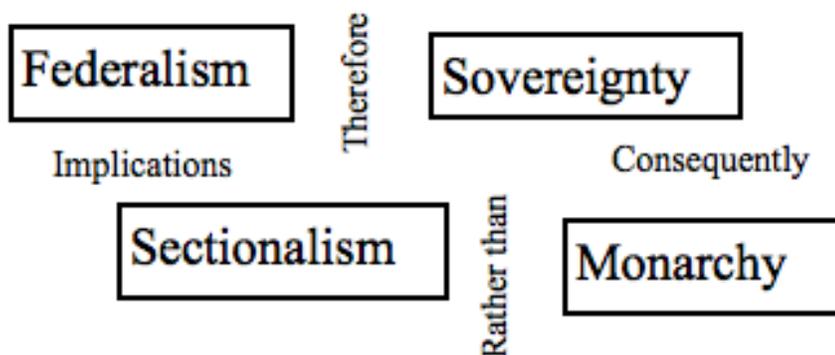
Excerpt 2: Geography is the study of people and places of Earth. It explains the forces that shape the land. It explores how living things are connected to the places where they live. Geography helps us understand our environment. An environment includes all the surroundings and conditions that affect living things.

Both excerpts have about the same percentage of 'rare' words (23% for narrative; 20% for expository). What's different between these 'rare' words?

Categories of Vocabulary Words

- A. New label for *known* concept (Tier __ Words)
- B. New label for *new* concept (Academic Content Words often Tier __)
- C. General Academic Vocabulary

Bricks and Mortar Analogy



What are the bricks and mortar for your content or grade level?

Categories of Academic Vocabulary

Type	Examples	Frequency (# of appearances/ million words)	Dispersion (how widely used in different contexts)
content-specific	Meridian	3	.41
	landform	2	.21
	hemisphere		.54
general academic	affect	63	.85
	features	48	.88
	conditions	107	.91
literary	blizzard	4	.41
	refuge	5	.21
	hollered	1	.32

Hiebert and Lubliner (2008) *The Nature, Learning, and Instruction of General Academic Vocabulary in Farstrup and Samuels: What Research has to say about Vocabulary Instruction*.

What does this suggest for which words make the biggest impact on academic learning across the curriculum?

Vocabulary Test: Write a definition or meaning for each term.

1. antipodes
2. borborygmus
3. cullet
4. defenestrate
5. grapnel
6. hallux
7. pellucid
8. otiose
9. malanders
10. polysemous

References

- Beck, Isabel, Margaret McKeown, and Linda Kucan (2002) *Bringing Words to Life*
- Beck, Isabel, Margaret McKeown, and Linda Kucan (2008) *Creating Robust Vocabulary: Frequently Asked Questions and Extended Examples*
- Biemiller, Andrew (1999) *Language and Reading Success*
- Echevarria, Jana, MaryEllen Vogt, and Deborah Short (2008) *Making Content Comprehensible for English Language Learners: The SIOP Model*
- Farstrup, Alan and Jay Samuels, eds. (2008) *What Research has to say about Vocabulary Instruction*
- Hill, Jane and Kathleen Flynn (2006) *Classroom Instruction that Works with English Language Learners*
- Learning Point Associates (2005) *Integrated Vocabulary Instruction: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in Grades K-5*
- Marzano, Robert and Debra Pickering (2005) *Building Academic Vocabulary*

On-line Resources

- Academic Word List (Coxhead, 2000) www.academicvocabularylessons.com
- Word Generation Project www.wordgeneration.org
- Concept Construxions www.teachersforlearners.com
- Collins COBUILD dictionary on-line: dictionary.reverso.net/english-cobuild