

Purpose: The text-talk method teaches text-specific vocabulary after a selection has been read aloud to students.

Research Basis: Research demonstrates that reading aloud to students is most effective when the teacher engages students in discussion about words, concepts, and events in the selection both during and after reading aloud. The text-talk method provides a framework for guiding discussion and focusing on important key words (Beck et al. 2002; Gambrell et al. 1996).

1. **Display the key words.**
2. **Read aloud.** As you read, pause to provide a short explanation of each key word as you come to it. For example, if you are teaching the word *otherwise* you might say: *You can use the word otherwise when you are explaining what might happen. For example, I hope I catch the bus today after school, otherwise I will be late.*
3. **Elaborate meanings.** After reading, activate prior knowledge: *What do you know about this word?* Explain the meanings of the key words more fully, using the steps of Vocabulary Routine 1.
4. **Discuss.** Create discussion prompts that encourage students to use the words together. For example, for the word *otherwise*, you may display the following frame and ask students to use the word as they tell about an upcoming weekend activity, holiday, or school event.

I hope _____, otherwise _____.

5. **Extend.** Encourage students to think about and use the key words at other times in classroom discussion, and in their lives beyond the classroom. Invite them to tell about how they have used the target words outside of class and to tell about how they have heard friends and family use the target words.

Application

DAYS 3-4 & 6

- Use with In Other Words and to extend understanding of Content, Classroom, and Academic Vocabulary. (Days 3-4 and 6 of each lesson plan)

DAYS 8-9

- Use with Guided Reading groups (Days 8-9 of each lesson plan)

In July, when the plants were as tall as my waist, we picked potato beetles off the leaves. I dropped them into a pail of soapy water.

"Gross."

"We have to do this," Dad said. "**Otherwise**, the bugs will eat the leaves and the potatoes won't grow."



Otherwise, the bugs will eat the leaves and the plants won't grow. In other words, if we don't, the bugs will eat the leaves..."