

Introduce the Words

Vocabulary Routine 1

Purpose: Students engage in learning concepts and acquire background knowledge as they learn new key words and develop a deeper understanding of the words.

Research Basis: Decades of research have confirmed the important role that vocabulary plays in reading comprehension and in students' overall academic success (Hiebert & Kamil 2005). Immersing students in rich and varied language experiences permits them to learn words through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In this new view of robust, explicit instruction, vocabulary is introduced using consistent, predictable routines (Beck et al. 2002). Follow these steps to help students make words fully their own, so that vocabulary can be accessed at will in a variety of situations.

- 1. Pronounce the word.** Model the pronunciation of the key word and point to the accompanying picture; have students pronounce the word.
- 2. Rate the word.** Have students use thumbs up or thumbs down to show if they know the word. Ask: *What do you know about this word?* Encourage students to share knowledge.
- 3. Define the word.** Use a student-friendly definition to explain the meaning. (Definitions are provided in the Picture Dictionary at the back of the Student Book.)
- 4. Elaborate the meaning.** Generate discussion of the word. Use one or more of the following strategies:
 - Relate the word to your personal experience.
 - Encourage students to use the word as they talk about their own experience.
 - Using questions or comments, motivate students to engage in discussion about the word. Extended discussion will help all students understand the word and how it is used.
 - Point out word parts and spelling patterns that will help students recognize the word.
 - Challenge students to connect the word across content areas.
 - Post the words on the Word Wall.
- 5. Post the words on a Word Wall.**
 - Reserve a section of the classroom wall or bulletin board for the Word Wall.
 - As new vocabulary is introduced, write the words on cards and add them to the wall. Words can be arranged in random order, or alphabetically, by similar topic, or in other ways as you choose.
 - Tell students that they will add definitions, sentences, drawings, and more to the Word Wall as they learn more about each word.
 - Periodically have students read the Word Wall or portions of it chorally. Encourage students to tell about how they have used the words in class or outside of school.

Application

DAY 1

- Introduce new Content Vocabulary (Day 1 of each lesson plan)

DAY 2

- Introduce new Academic Vocabulary (Day 2 of each lesson plan)

