TEACHING ACADEMIC VOCABULARY TO ELS/MLS AND STRUGGLING READERS

Margarita Calderón, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, Johns Hopkins University

We will learn, experience, reflect and discuss:

- Select academic language using different types of words, phrases, and language structures to address core standards and classroom discourse.
- Teach vocabulary expeditiously before reading, during close reading, and for textbased writing.

0

1

3

Carnegie Corporation of New York

Funded Empirical Testing of ExC-ELL

ExC-ELL – A professional development program for mainstream teachers of math, science, social studies, and language arts

- 5 years of empirical testing of ExC-ELL
- No other program has undergone so much testing and refinement.



Showed great results in NYC, Kauai, Charlotte, & Salt Lake City. Now in Memphis & Virginia.



2

Academic Language

- ✓ For teacher-student and student-student formal discourse
- ✓ For interaction around standards and goals
- ✓ Words that need to be taught from the text students are about to read
- ✓ For formal writing
- ✓ For success on tests, academic and economic status

(Calderón, 2014)

Why Is Vocabulary Important?

- Command of a large vocabulary frequently sets high-achieving students apart from less successful ones Montgomer, 2000).
- The average 6-year-old has a vocabulary of approximately 8,000 words and learns 3,000-5,000 more per year (senethal & Cornell, 1993).
- Vocabulary in kindergarten and first grade is a significant predictor of reading comprehension in the middle and secondary grades or reading difficulties (Cumingham, 2005; Cumingham & Stanovich, 1997) and (Chall & Dale, 1995; Denton et al. 2011).

4

Which Words Should I Select to Teach That Transition to ALL Subject Areas in L1 & L2?

WORDS? WORDS? WORDS?

Tiers 3, 2 & 1

Summary of Vocabulary for ELs
TIER 3 Subject-specific words that label content
discipline concepts, subjects, and topics.
Infrequently used academic words.

TIER 2 Information processing words that nest tier 3 words in long sentences; polysemous words, transition words, connectors; more sophisticated words for rich discussions and specificity in descriptions.

TIER 1 Basic words ELs need to communicate, read and write. Those that should be taught.

© 2020 Margarita Calderón & Associates

6

7

Tier 3 Academic Content, Specific or Technical Words				
Math	Science Social Studies			
Square root	Photosynthesis	Government		
Rectangle	Germ	Bylaws		
Radical numbers	Atom	Bailout		
Circumference	Matter	Congressional		
Pi	Osmosis	Capital		
Power	Power	Power		

Polysemous words than one meaning		
solution table divide prime round trunk state bank	power cell right radical leg left light face	fall check court hand long pin rest roll

8

9

Choose one Polysemous Word

Please share in the chat box:

List **all of the ways** students may encounter the word you picked from the list:

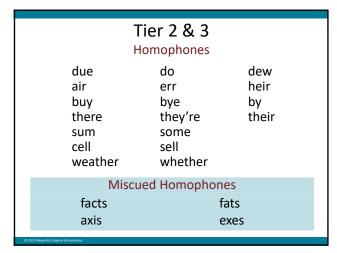
- Across all subjects
- In the news
- At home
- In idioms
- Anywhere else!

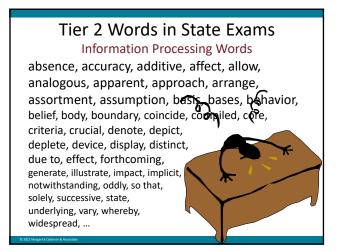
Debrief: Polysemous Words Activity

- What did you learn from this activity?
- How will this activity change how you think about vocabulary?
- How could you use this activity with students or teachers?

© 2022 Margarita Calderón & Associat

10 11





12 13

Tier 2

Words that Nest Content Words & Concepts

Cause and Effect – because, due to, as a result, since, for this reason, therefore, in order to, so that, thus...

Contrast – or, but, although, however, in contrast, nevertheless, on the other hand, while...

Addition or Comparison – and, also, as well as, in addition, likewise, moreover, by the way...

Giving Examples – for example, for instance, in particular, such as...



Tier 2

Sophisticated & Specificity of "Say"

Instead of Tier 1: talk & say, how about Tier 2s?

whisper
converse conversar
specify especificar
comment comentar
announce anunciar
mention mencionar
request
communicate comunicar
reveal reveler
dialogue dialogar
remark

verbalize verbalizar declare declarar pronounce pronunciar describe describir debate debatir discuss discutir proclaim proclamar articulate articular question cuestionar scream pontificate pontificar

14 15

	Tier 2 Idioms for: "Talk"		
Small talk Sweet talk Talk shop Talk big Talk sense Talk down Talk back Talk over Speak up Pep talk	Talk your ear off Talk in circles Talk in riddles Talk a mile a minute Dance around a topic Talking to a brick wall Talk of the town Spit it out Talking point Talk your way out of it		

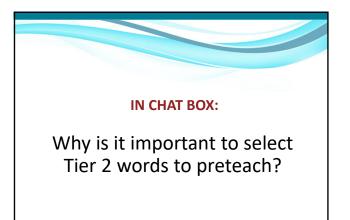
\	Tier 1 Words for ELs
Problem Words	Examples
Spelling	tough, toothache, phrase, highlight, because
Pronunciation or confusion with homophones	weather/whether, sum/some, blue/blew, whole/hole, access/exes/axis, sell/cell, ship/chip
Background knowledge	lawnmower, blender, parka, skyscraper
False cognates	exit, character, embarrassed, success
© 2022 Margarita Calderón & Associates	

16 17



Identify & Classify Words			
Type of Words	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
Polysemous			
Phrases			
(bundled up			
words, idioms)			
Cognates			
Connectors &			
transitions			
Homophones			
Other:			

18 19



Your Turn!

Select Tier 2 words from the next slide.

21

23

20

Climate Change Science Overview

Modified from the *United States Environmental Protection Agency* for usage in this lesson. Earth's climate is changing in ways that affect our weather, oceans, snow, ice, ecosystems and society.

Natural causes alone, however, cannot explain all of these changes. Human activities which have been noted as contributing to climate change, are primarily due to the release of billions of tons of carbon dioxide (CO $_2$) and other heat-trapping gases, known as greenhouse gases, into the atmosphere every year. $^{[1]}$

Climate changes will continue into the future. Accordingly, the more greenhouse gases we emit, the larger future climate changes will be.



Changes in the climate system affect our health, environment and economy. Fortunately, we can prepare for some of the impacts of climate change to reduce their negative effects on our well-being.

Climate Change Science Overview

Modified from the *United States Environmental Protection Agency* for usage in this lesson.

Earth's climate is changing in ways that affect our weather, oceans, snow, ice, ecosystems and society.

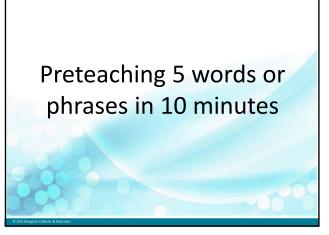
Natural causes alone, however, cannot explain all of these changes. Human activities which have been noted as contributing to climate change, are primarily due to the release of billions of tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other heat-trapping gases, known as greenhouse gases, into the atmosphere every year. [1]

Climate changes will continue into the future. Accordingly, the more greenhouse gases we emit, the larger future climate changes will be.



Changes in the climate system affect our health, environment and economy. Fortunately, we can prepare for some of the impacts of climate change to reduce their negative effects on our well-being.

22



7-Steps for Preteaching Vocabulary The Flow for 2nd - 12th

- 1. Teacher says the word (or phrase) and asks students to repeat the word 3 times.
- 2. Teacher states the word in context from text.

- 3. Teacher provides the dictionary definition.
 4. Teacher provides student-friendly definition.
 5. Teacher highlights grammar, spelling, polysemy, etc.

Students engage in **Teacher** provided sentence starter or frame using the target vocabulary for 60 seconds.
7. Teacher informs students how/when to use

the word in Peer Summaries, Exit Passes, or other writing assignments.



25





26 27

Preteaching Tier 2 or 3 Words/Phrases

- 1. <u>Teacher</u> asks students to repeat the word.
- 2. <u>Teacher</u> states the word in context from the text.
- 3. <u>Teacher</u> provides the dictionary definition.
- Teacher provides studentfriendly definition.
- Teacher highlights features: polysemous, cognate, tense, prefixes, etc.
- students engage in Teacher provided sentence starter or frame for 60 seconds. (Must contain target vocab.)
- 7. <u>Teacher</u> informs when students will see and use it.

28

- 1. Say primarily due to 3 times.
- "Human activities ...
 contributing to climate
 change are primarily due to
 the release of billions of tons
 of CO₂ into the atmosphere."
- 3. Primarily due to means "mainly caused by" or "because of."
- 4. I am sad *primarily due to* not going out to eat at a restaurant.
- 5. Primarily due to is a phrase.

 is primarily due to ____.

 (Ping-Pong)
- 7. Use *primarily due to* in your Exit Pass today.

K-2 and Newcomers

- 1. roar, roar, roar
- 2. "Some hurricanes roar onto land..."
- 3. Roar is a loud noise.
- 4. TTYP and say, "_____ roars."



29

31









5. You will see roar in our story.

SEL During Step 6

Interpersonal/Intrapersonal skills

- Intentionality and mindfulness
- Listening skills really listening to partner
- Speaking skills knowing how to socially interact

Cognitive growth

- Keeping information in mind
- Using new information

Attitude

• Willing to try

In chat box:

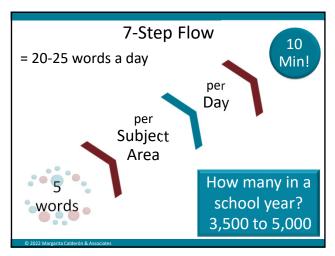
What other skills are ELs using during Step 6?

SEL for EL Talk

- Turn-to-Your-Partner or Think-Pair-Share mostly used to answer a question.
- Teach Your Buddy! Similar to Think-Pair-Share but partners teach each other what the teacher has just explained. Randomly call to share.
- L1 Chat time students with same native language discuss/clarify a topic or chat at the end of the day.
- Round Table Summaries four students use (Initially, subsequently, moreover, finally) for 2-minute verbal summaries.

© 2020 Margarita Calderón & Associates

30



Reminders

Preteaching Vocabulary

- ✓ Not a passive role Don't ask students to look up the word in a dictionary, define it in the context of a sentence, copy it from the board, or listen to the word and meaning only.
- ✓ Active role Ask them to use the word with peers, apply it to real-life experiences, and connect it with meanings in the text.
- ✓ Use the word in reading comprehension and discussion, and in oral and written summaries. |

© 2022 Margarita Calderón & Asso

32

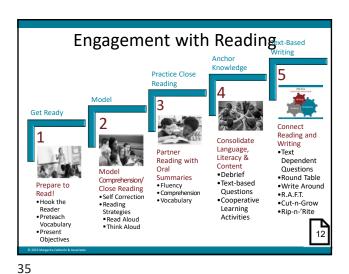
34

33

Reminders

Preteaching Vocabulary

- ✓ Keep teacher talk to 1 min for the 7-Steps or 5-Steps. Students use word for 60/30 seconds. 100% student participation!
- ✓ DO NOT ask them to write, draw, guess what it means, or spend too much time giving examples that might draw students away from the real meaning. Writing and further depth of word meaning and practice can come after reading. Avoid methods that take up to 20 min per word!



Vocabulary for Speaking, Listening, Reading & Writing

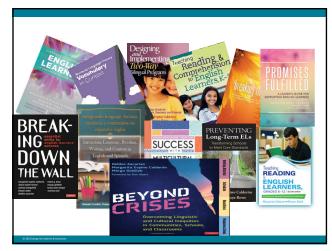
- 1. Peer practice of new vocabulary (Step 6)
- 2. Partner Reading with Verbal Summaries
- 3. Team discussions with Numbered Heads
- 4. Team projects or Project-Based Learning
- Cooperative Learning strategies such as Numbered Heads Together, Corners, Jigsaws, Concentric Circles, Conga Lines
- 6. Collaborative Writing: Pair, triad or team writing, editing and revising

We will learn, experience, reflect and discuss:

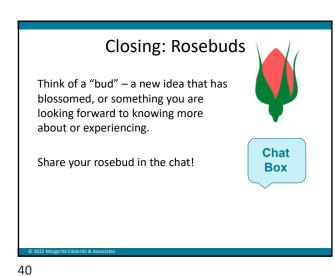
- Select academic language using different types of words, phrases, and language structures to address core standards and classroom discourse.
- Teach vocabulary expeditiously before reading, during close reading, and for textbased writing.

36 37





38 39



The ExC-ELL Website & Twitter

- www.ExC-ELL.com
- Click on RESOURCES for a plethora of downloadable resources for your classroom
- @calderonexc

41

