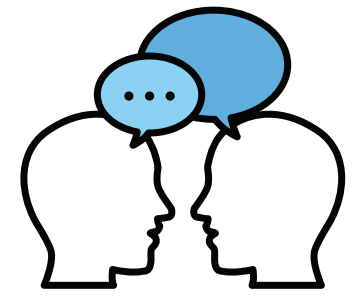




EPHS Teaching and Learning Blog

Deliberate Vocabulary Development



WHAT'S THE IDEA?

In order for students to become fluent in the use of complex subject-specific terminology and more general vocabulary, the process of learning new words needs to be considered deliberately and explicitly as part of teacher instruction. Students with the weakest prior knowledge and most limited vocabulary will find this more difficult, new words do not just 'sink in' and, in the absence of deliberate practice, new words are likely to be forgotten all too easily. These steps support a deliberate vocabulary development process for all learners.

HOW CAN I APPROACH THIS?

Specify and define the words: Compile lists or a glossary of words that you know students will need to know or highlight them in texts and resources they will use.

Provide definitions for these words so that the students can explain them in terms they know.

Say the words: make sure all students say the words they need to learn. this can be done in a variety of ways: chorally, in pairs or rapid fire



Read words in context: Wherever possible, ensure that the target vocabulary is encountered embedded in the text that the students will read. This gives the words a context that supports understanding and recall.

Practice using the words verbally and in writing: Students must practice using words for them to form part of the repertoire of words they can actually use. Give students practice tasks that require the words to be used in writing and structured discussions.

Engage in word based retrieval practice: use glossaries or knowledge organisers to support regular retrieval practice using the target vocabulary. Students must be required to recall the words from memory - not relying on looking them up. Test that students know what the words mean, can identify their correct use in context and can use them in speech and in writing themselves.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

https://my.chartered.college/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Vocab_Sherrington.pdf
<https://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/reading-reconsidered-teaching-vocabulary/>
<https://teacherhead.com/2017/10/27/building-word-confidence-everyone-read-say-understand-use-practise/>