How to Teach Vocabulary to Young Learners

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Plan:

- What is vocabulary?
- How we should to teach vocabulary for YL
- Background to teach vocabulary
- Principles for teaching vocabulary
- Strategies to teach vocabulary
- Classroom techniques and activities

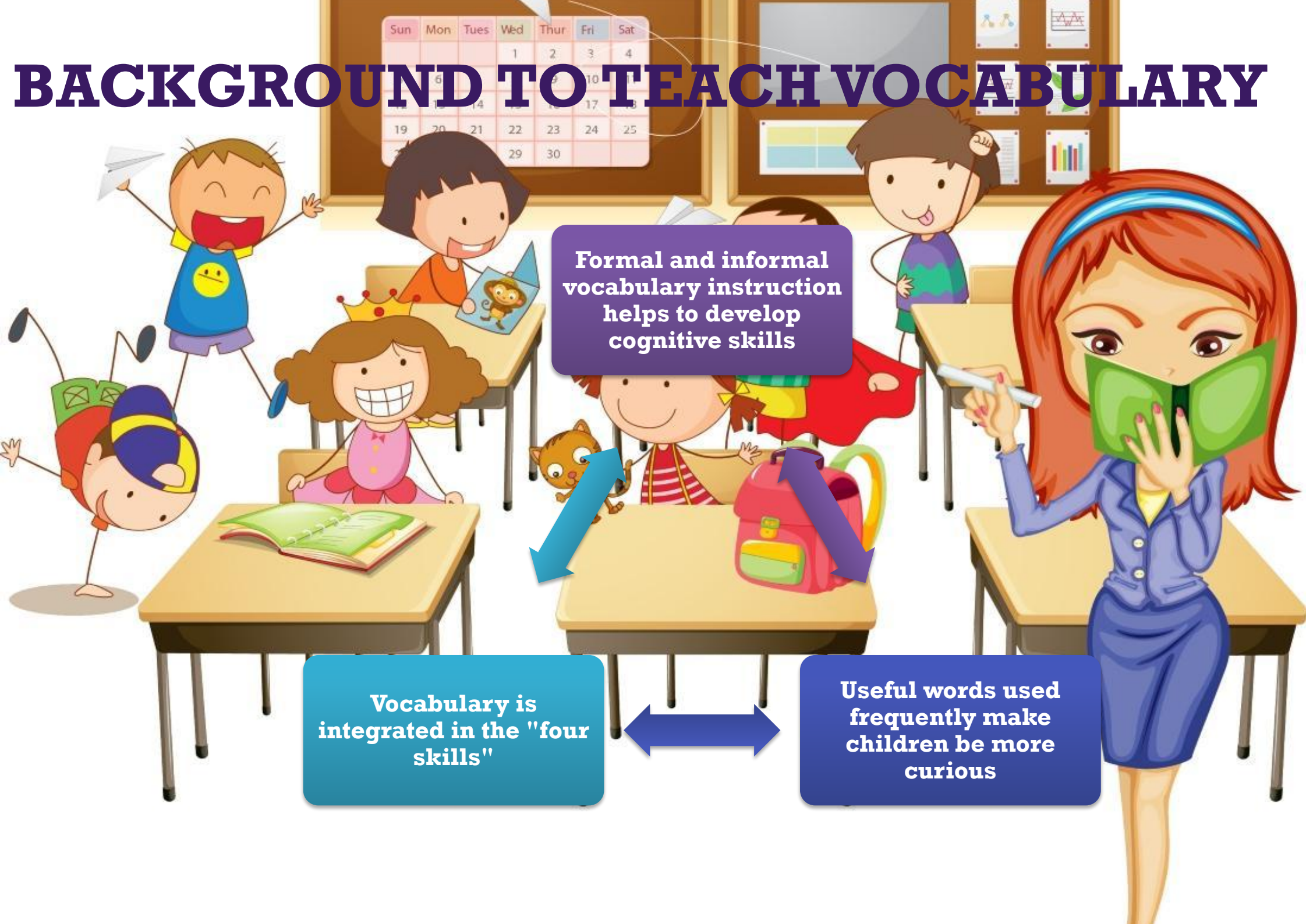
VOCABULARY

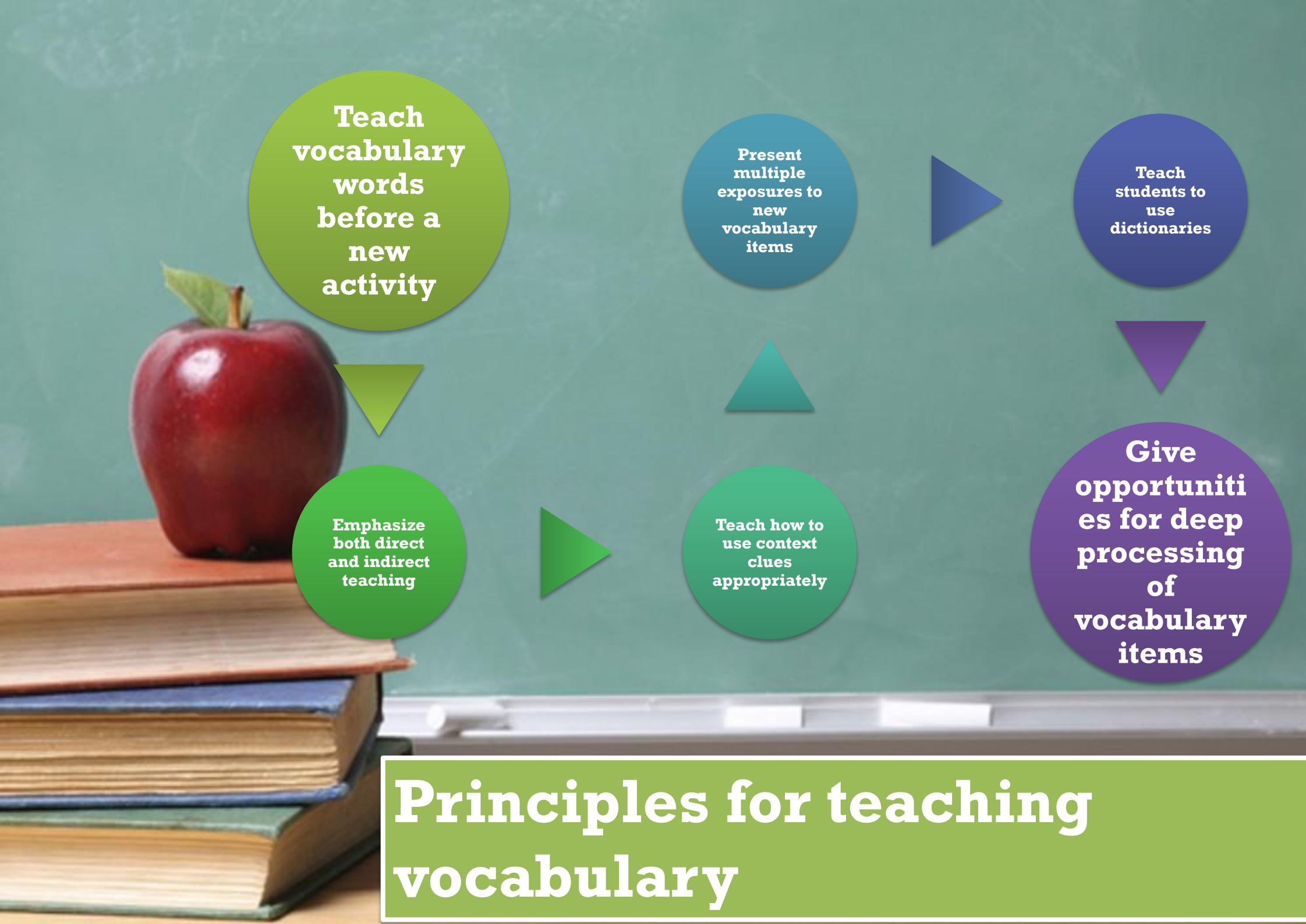
What is …

?

Is the collection of words that an individual knows

BACKGROUND TO TEACH VOCABULARY





Principles for teaching vocabulary

How we should to teach vocabulary for YL

- Make it interesting
- Keep it relevant
- Set achievable goals
- Teach words in context

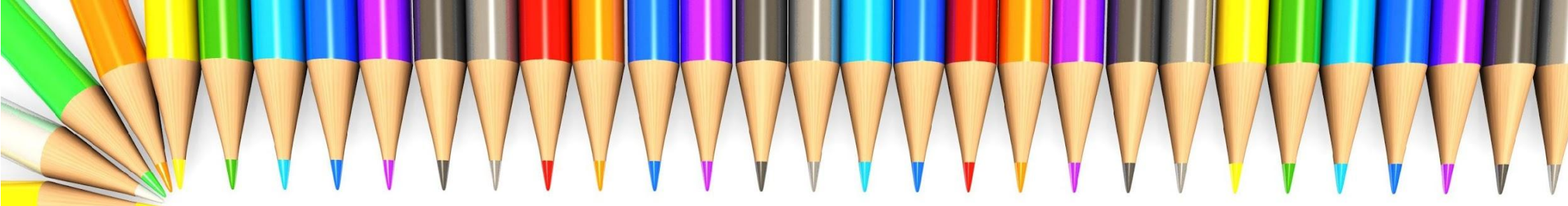
1. The words we are targeting - are they suitable for the students ability
2. The amount of time we give students to learn them
3. The number of words we set

Strategies to Teach Vocabulary

Label everything in your classroom

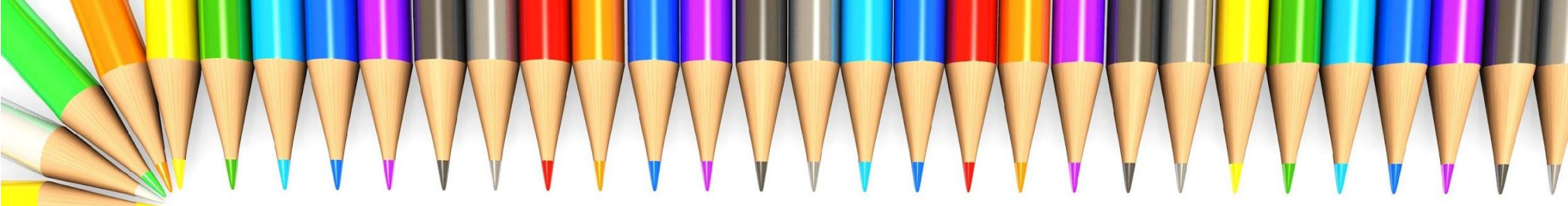
Pre-teach key vocabulary

Play vocabulary games



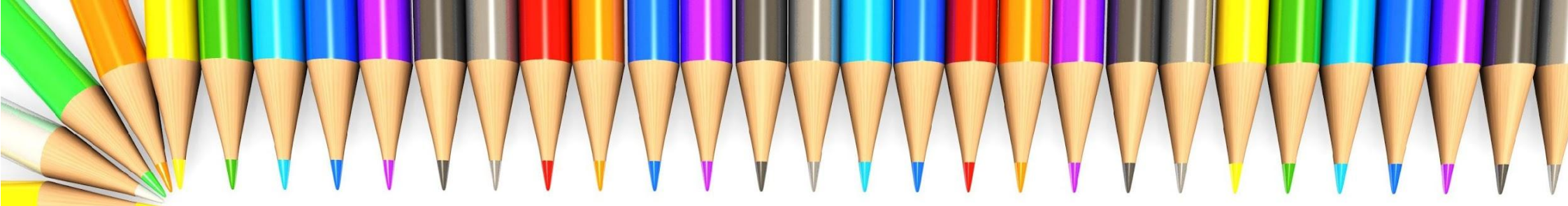
Label everything in your classroom

- **Posters**: Choose posters with colorful and clearly labeled images. Or add labels for the pictures yourself. **The main thing** is for your students to associate each word with its corresponding image to help them learn vocabulary.
- **Maps**: Write the title above each map to depict what the land represents.
- **Supplies**: Label containers for all supplies and materials in your classroom: pencils, colored pencils, erasers, scissors, rulers, glue, lined paper, white paper, and any other materials you use regularly. **Technology and Furniture**: Label computers, computer screen, keyboard, mouse, speakers, classroom screen, cabinet, file cabinet, teacher desk, teacher chair, and tables.
- **Miscellaneous**: Label a wall, a visible outlet, a visible chord, light switch, air vent, the ceiling, windows, shades, curtains, and the classroom door and clock.



Pre-teach key vocabulary

- **Be intentional about teaching vocabulary to your students by pre-selecting key words from the text you're about to read. Don’t assume students will know essential words from the text. Give them a quick pretest to assess their current knowledge of key vocabulary. Once you've targeted the words your students don’t know, focus on teaching them!**
- **Word Study, word maps, word journals, and word walls are all excellent tools for helping students learn and apply new vocabulary.**
- **Aside from images, use tangible objects to teach the meanings of words. For example, if introducing the word bark (from a tree), show students a piece of actual bark you found outside. Or, better yet, take them outside and show them!**



Play vocabulary games

- **Word Bingo**: Each student has a card with grids, with one word written in each grid. Students listen for the meaning of each word and place markers on each word depicting the meaning they hear. The first player to mark a complete row, column or diagonal pattern of words is the winner. For more advanced students, give them each two cards——they now need a marked pattern of words on each card to win!
- **Charades**: Students have to act out a word or phrase without speaking, while the rest of the class tries to guess what the word or phrase is. The goal is for students to guess each word or phrase as quickly as possible. For more advanced or competitive students, divide the class into teams. Time how long it takes each team to guess the opponent's word/phrase. Keep track of time to determine the winning team!
- **Word Jeopardy**: Students are given clues in the form of answers, and must phrase their responses in the form of questions. Jeopardy games can be created on smartboards by following utube tutorials.

Spelling Bulls-eye
Sparkle
Classroom techniques and activities
Vocabulary Puzzle
Guess the Word
Word Ladder