



Synopsis

As the title suggests, this video explores the concept of intentional vocabulary instruction.

Research suggests that vocabulary is a moving target; The number of words learners must know to achieve success in school grows incrementally as learners progress through grade levels and subject areas. Douglas (2013) asserts that the first 2000 words will unlock most of the proficiency needed to socially communicate. However, it is important to remember with just “with 2000 word families academic proficiency is still out of reach” (Douglas, 2013, p. 190).

In this video, we describe evidence-based strategies (e.g., Horst, 2013; Laufer, 2005; Nation, 2014) that are intentional practices that reinforce vocabulary development. In order to acquire new words learners must be given contextualized opportunities to use and reuse their growing repertoires in meaningful ways, both socially and academically. Moreover, Roessingh (2015) and Coelho (2012) underscore the importance of teaching words as they appear in relevant reading materials.

Professional Learning Conversation Guide

Intentional Vocabulary Instruction Intentional Language Teaching Series [Video 4](#)

Pre-Viewing Activation Questions:

1. Reflect on a time when you learned a new word: Was it in a social, professional or academic setting? What strategies did you use to figure out its meaning and add it to your repertoire?
2. Why should we teach vocabulary to learners, and additional language learners, in particular?
3. How do you teach your students new words? Which approaches work best for you?

Post-Viewing Extension Questions:

1. Why is vocabulary development a crucial contributor to academic achievement?
2. Why is it important to focus instruction on both social and academic vocabulary?
3. How might you use the “5Rs” of reading in your content instruction (e.g., Mathematics, Science, Social Studies)?

Selected Resources:

Coxhead, A. (Ed.). (2014). *New Ways in Teaching Vocabulary*. Alexandria, VA: TESOL Press.

Nation, P. (n.d.). Recent Vocabulary Resources. Retrieved from <https://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/about/staff/paul-nation>