Vocabulary Instruction

What is Vocabulary Instruction?

Vocabulary refers to the words we must know to communicate effectively. Vocabulary instruction can be "taught and caught". Most vocabulary is learned indirectly, while some words are directly taught.

Vocabulary Research

Put Reading First: The Research Building Blocks for Teaching Children to Read has this to say about vocabulary instruction:

"Children learn the meanings of most words *indirectly*, through everyday experiences with oral and written language. Children can learn word meanings indirectly in three ways:
  1) through conversations with other people, especially adults
  2) from listening to adults read to them and through the discussion of unfamiliar
   words
  3) through extensive reading on their own.

 Children can be taught words *directly* in two ways:
  1) specific word instruction
  2) through word learning strategies."

Vocabulary Websites	
Vocabulary Worksheets	http://www.vocabulary.com
Lesson Plans	http://lessonplancentral.com/lessons/Language_Arts/Vocabulary/index.htm
Online Vocabulary Development	http://www.techteachers.com/vocabulary.htm

Vocabulary Activities

Specific Word Instruction

- ✓ Teach 8-10 specific words students will encounter *before* they read the text. The *Vocabulary Map*, *Multiple Meaning Word Map*, *Define It,* and the vocabulary cards on the following pages are good tools for this.

- ✓ Provide students with multiple opportunities to use, hear, and read the words in many contexts over several days.

Word Learning Strategies

- ✓ Teach students to use dictionaries, glossaries, and thesauruses to deepen their knowledge of words.

- ✓ Teach students common prefixes and suffixes to help them determine the meaning of new words.

- ✓ Teach students to use context clues in texts to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words. Since most new words are learned indirectly, you should teach students to look for common context clues including, definitions, restatements, examples, or descriptions.

Common Prefixes

in, into,: in, il, im, ir , en, intro – infiltrate. illuminate, import, irrigate, enlist, introduce
inside, within: intro, intra, endo – introspection, intravenous, endogenous
to, toward, ob: ad, ac, ag, at – adjust, accommodate, aggression, attract, observe
forth, forward: pro – proclaim
beside, by: para – parallel, paraphrase
between, among: inter, dia – intervene, dialogue
outside: extra, extro, epi- extraterrestrial, extrovert, epidermis
with, at the same time: com, con, cor, syn, sym – company, contemporary, correlate,   synchronize, symphony
after: post – postwar, posterior
before: pre, ante, pro – precede, antebellum, prologue
down: de – descend
under, beneath: sub – subway
above, **over**: super – superior, supersensitive
back, backward: re, retro – retreat, retroactive
around, about: circum, peri – circumference, perimeter
through, throughout: per – perennial
across: trans, dia- transport, transatlantic, diameter
beyond: ultra, extra – ultrasonic, ultraconservative, extraordinary, extrapolate
apart: se – secular, separate
from, away from: ab, abs – absolve, abstain
off, away: dis, di- dismiss, divert
out, out of: ex, ec – exit, expel, exorcist, eccentric
not: un, in, il, im, ir, dis, non, a – unpleasant, indecisive, illogical, impolite, irrelevant, disapprove, nonviolent, atypical;
reversal: un, de, dis, counter – unsettle, deregulate, disarm, countermand
one, single, alone: mono, mon, uni- monorail, monocular, uniform
two, twice: di, bi, bin- dioxide, bicycle, binocular
three: tri – triangle, tricycle
four: tetr, quadr – tetrahedron, quadrangle
five: pent, quintus – pentathlon, quintuplet
six: hexa, hex, sex – hexagon, sextet
seven: help, sept, septem – heptagon, September
eight: oct – octet, October
nine: nove – November, novena
ten, tenth: centi, cent- century, cent
thousand, thousandth: milli, kilo – millimeter, kilometer, kilogram
many, much: poly, multi – polygon, polyester, multitude
first: prot – proton, protagonist
half: hemi, semi – hemisphere, semicircle
bad, badly: mal, mis – malpractice, malignant, misfit, miserable
wrong: mis – misspell, mistake
good, well: bene – benefactor, benign
common, like: homo – homogeneous, homogenized
like, same: syn – synonymous, synonyms

Common Suffixes

one who: ant,ar, ent, er, ess, or –student, servant, beggar, superintendent, teacher, waitress, actor
one who is: ard, ee- employee, drunkard, payee
one who practices: ist – scientist, anarchist
place for or with: arium, ary, orium, ory – aquarium, solarium, library, auditorium, laboratory
art or skill of: ship – salesmanship, showmanship
state or quality of being: ance, atioin, dom, ence, hood, ion, ism, ity, ment, ness, ship, sion, th, tion, ty, ure – tolerance, repentance, starvation, freedom, violence, childhood, champion, heroism, necessity, amusement, happiness, friendship, tension, length, attention, loyalty, failure
doctrine of: ism – Marxism, capitalism
study of: ology – psychology, biology
small: let, cle, cule, ette, - booklet, particle,,molecule, dinette, rivulet
more than one: s, a, es, e – cats, data, buildings, boxes, alumni
relating to: ial, al, ian, ic, ical – commercial, natural, urban, artificial, comical
inclined to: tive, acious, ant, ative, ent, ish, ive – combative, voracious, vigilant, demonstrative, competent, childish, instructive
can be: able, ible – readable, lovable, visible
full of: ful, ous, ulent, y – careful, thoughtful, wondrous, turbulent, wordy
without: less – careless, thoughtless
that which was: en, ed – mistaken, baked, stolen
in what manner: ily, ly – steadily, speedily, slowly
to what extent: ly – extremely, scarcely
to make: en – weaken, activate, strengthen, terrify, popularize
to change tense or time: ed, ed, ing – marched, talked, taken, singing

Name _____ Date _____

Vocabulary Map

Vocabulary Word	Word in Context	Definition	Draw a Quick Picture	Word Used in Your Own Sentence
	Found on page: _____			
	Found on page: _____			
	Found on page: _____			
	Found on page: _____			

Name _____ Date _____

Multiple Meaning Word Map

Directions: Write the multiple meaning word in the circle. Write a definition for the word in each box. Below each definition, write your own sentence for the multiple meaning word with that definition.

Definition #1:

Definition #2:

Multiple Meaning Word:

Definition #3:

Definition #4:

Name _____ Date _____

Define It

Word:		Category:		Attribute:
	=		**✚**	

Definition: _____

Word:		Category:		Attribute:
	=		**✚**	

Definition: _____

Word:		Category:		Attribute:
	=		**✚**	

Definition: _____

Word:		Category:		Attribute:
	=		**✚**	

Definition: _____

Word: _____

Definition: _____

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Picture:

Word: _____

Definition: _____

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Picture:

Word: _____

Definition: _____

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Picture: