

Direct Teaching of Vocabulary

Vocabulary is extremely important to comprehending reading material in content areas. In this strategy, specific procedures are suggested for directly teaching students how to decode words, learn definitions, and use these words in context.

Step One: Decoding the words

1. Showing the words on flashcards, model reading the words for the class while the student listens.
2. Showing the words on flashcards, read the words individually and have the students repeat them.
3. Showing the words, have the whole class read the words.
4. Showing the words, call on different students to read one word.
5. Challenge students to try to read all the words.
6. Provide students a list of words to take home to practice reading, or allow students to make their own flashcards.

Step Two: Decoding and learning definitions

1. Using flashcards, practice reading the words with the whole class.
2. Challenge individual students to read all of the words.
3. Showing words one at a time, ask if any student knows what the word means; build on his definition or provide a definition.
4. When finished going through the words, place the flashcards on the chalkboard where students can see each word, then give definition and have students find the word.
5. Repeat procedure until all words have been identified.
6. Provide students a list of words with accompanying definitions to practice or make their own flashcards.

Step Three: Decoding, learning definitions and applying

1. Using flashcards, practice reading the words with the whole class.
2. Giving the students a list of vocabulary words (e.g. on paper, overhead transparency or line flashcards up along the chalkboard); read definition of each word and have students identify the word.
3. Giving the students a list of vocabulary words, give sentences, blanking out the vocabulary word. Have students fill in the blank.
4. Provide students a crossword puzzle with the vocabulary words and accompanying definitions (optional inclass or homework assignment).

Step Four: Decoding, learning definitions and applying

1. Using flashcards, practice reading the words with the whole class, and/pr have individual students read the words.
2. Read definition of each word and have students identify the word.
3. Display vocabulary words and have students give sentences, blanking out the vocabulary word for other students to fill in the correct word.

Step Five: Test

Components of the test may include all or some of the following activities depending on the student:

1. Reading vocabulary words to the teacher.
2. Matching words with definitions.
3. Filling in the sentence blanks with the correct vocabulary word.
4. Writing 3 – 5 sentences using one vocabulary word in each sentence.
5. Extension – writing a short paragraph using as many of the vocabulary words as possible.