Teaching vocabulary as part of an effective literacy programme

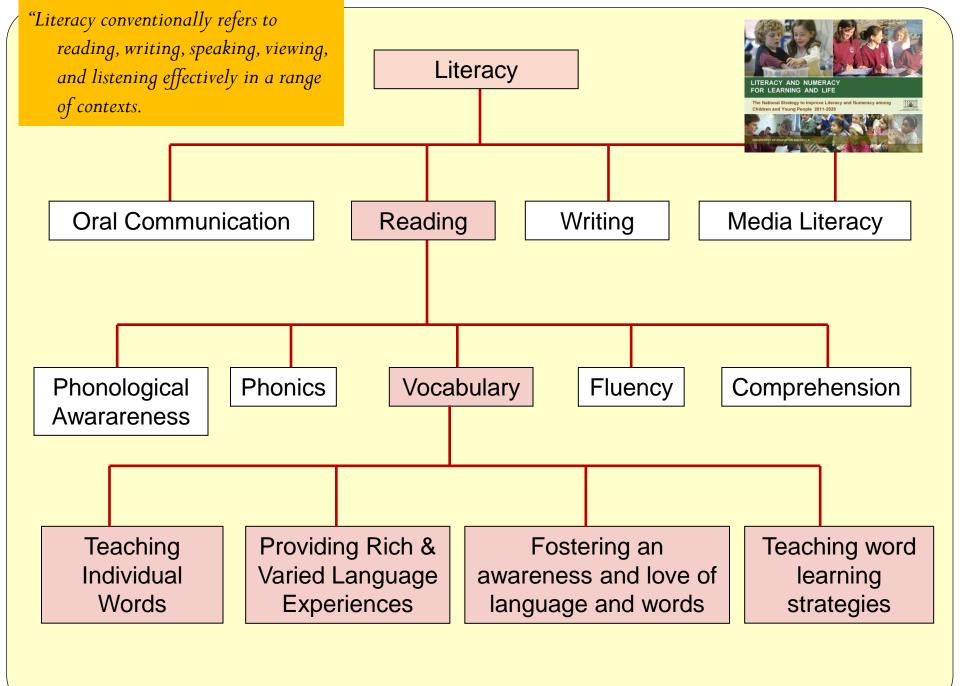
IPPN Conference 2012 FORGING A FUTURE

City West Thursday 26th & Friday 27th January 2012

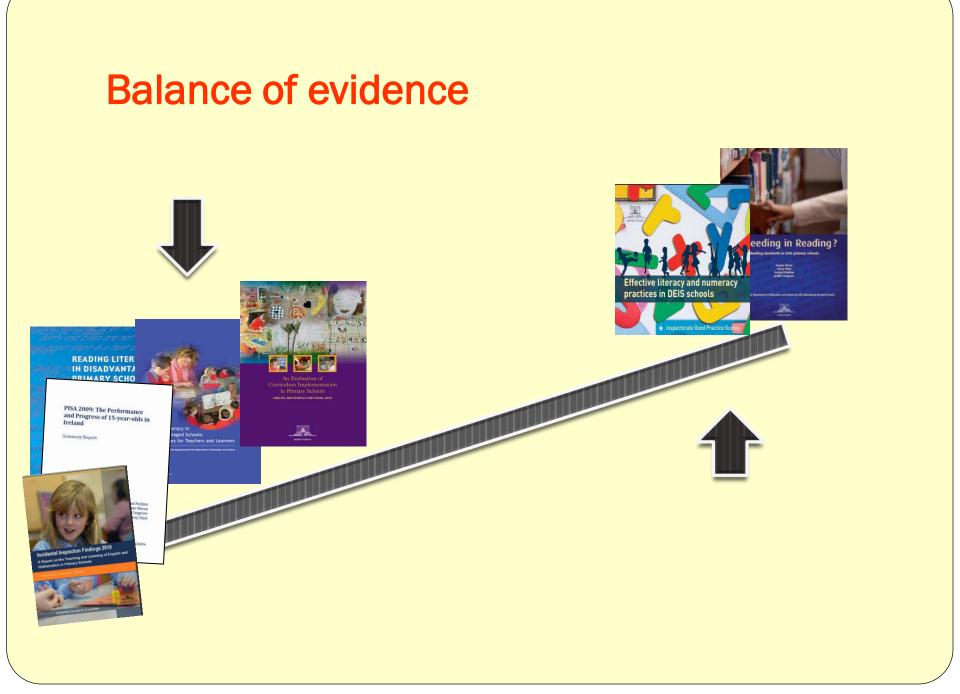


Gene Mehigan gene.mehigan@mie.ie













1971 Primary Curriculum – Doubled the subjects

(F

More context



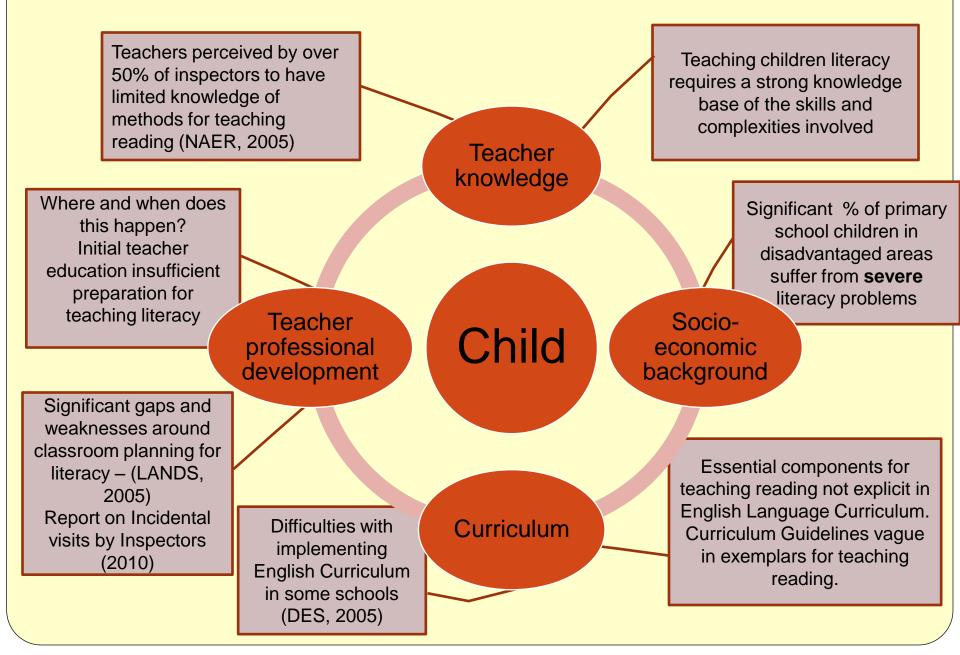
1999 Primary Curriculum further increase

Consequences?

Curriculum Time

Effort to give coverage to every topic = less attention to higher order skills such as comprehension, inference, comparison

Some variables that impact on literacy standards



Significant % of primary school children in disadvantaged areas suffer from **severe** literacy problems

Starting point is not the same for all children!!!!

The Impact of Differences in Language Experiences

 "By age three, children from privileged families have heard 30 million more words than children from poor families. By school entry the gap is even greater. The consequences are catastrophic." Hart & Risley, 2003

Vision for teaching literacy in your school?





I game 3½ hours a week

21st Century Learner



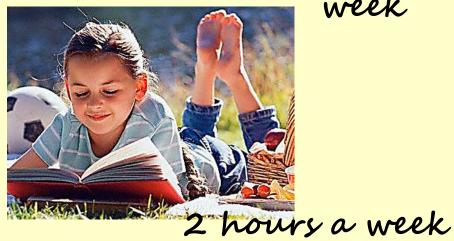
Twatch TV 161/2 hours a week





5½ hours a week on the computer

I listen to my IPOD 5hours a week



reading a book



What literacy skills will I need to communicate effectively in society?

Digital Literacy

 The ability to use digital technology, communication tools or networks to locate. evaluate, use and create information

Media Literacy

question, analyze,

interpret, evaluate, and create media

The ability to

messages.

Traditional Literacy

 Reading, writing, speaking and listening

Information Literacy

 The ability to identify what information is needed and the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information

Tool Literacy

 The ability to use tools to manage, information

Today's (New) Literacy

consume and create

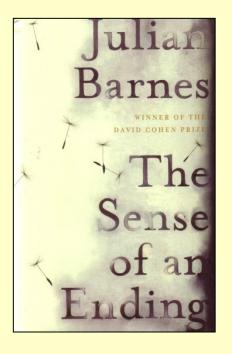
Critical Literacy

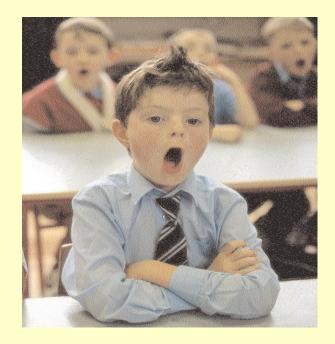
 The ability to question, challenge and evaluate the meanings and purposes of texts

Visual Literacy

 The ability to understand and produce visual messages

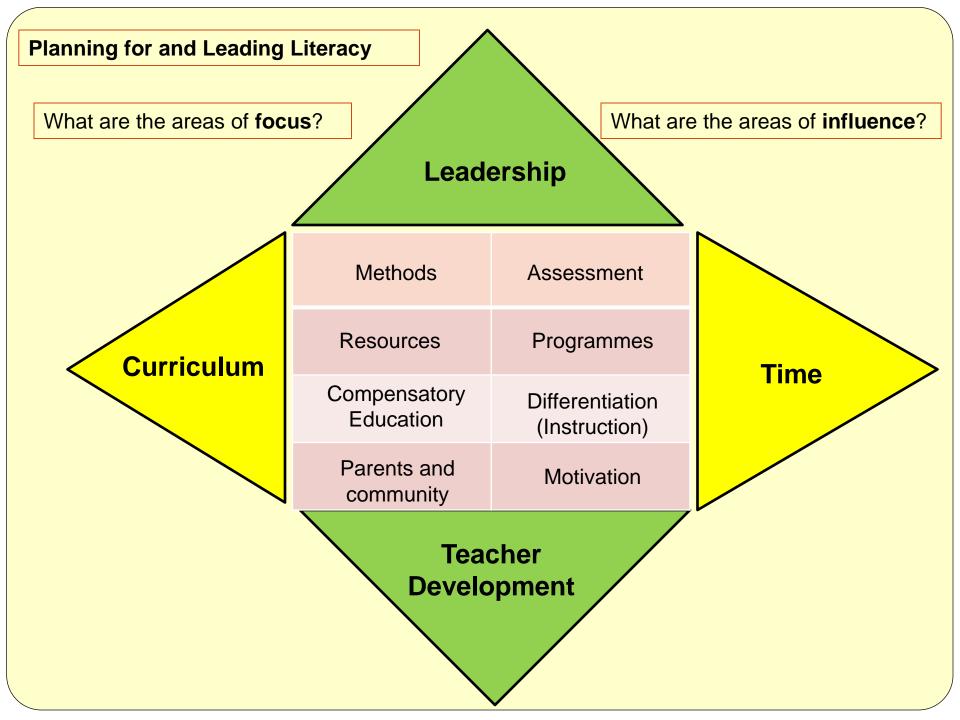
Profile of a graduating pupil from.....?





Junior Cycle Development Key skills

- Communicating
- Being creative
- Working with others
- Managing information and thinking
- Managing myself
- Wellbeing



Why am I suggesting a focus on teaching vocabulary?

"The limit of my language means the limit of my world"

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Vocabulary influences our existence

Communicate more effectively

Improves selfesteem

Better/more job offers Improves selfconfidence

Adds sophistication to speech

Improves people's perception of you

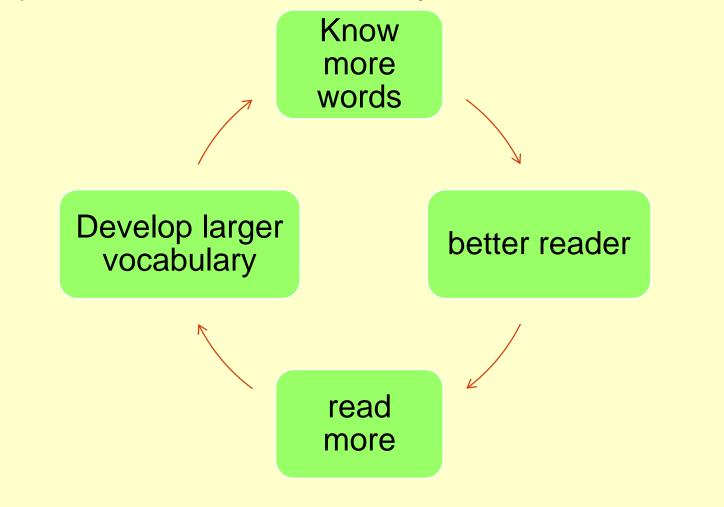
In school

Child with poor vocabulary development may......

- have difficulty understanding any vocabulary outside their own limited word-well
- have problems with conceptual thinking and find concentrating a challenge
- Not develop the range of *expressive language* necessary to <u>evaluate</u>, <u>analyse</u>, <u>describe</u>, <u>persuade</u> etc
- become frustrated, troublesome or withdrawn and struggle at school

Reciprocal hypothesis

 Relationship between vocabulary knowledge and reading comprehension – works both ways



Reference to "*vocabulary*" in the English Language Curriculum Statement (1999)

	Infants	1 st &2 nd	3 rd & 4 th	5 th & 6 th
Oral Language		 experience challenging vocabulary and sentence structure from the teacher experiment with more elaborate vocabulary and sentence structure in order to extend and explore meaning 	~ experience the teacher's use of challenging vocabulary and sentence structure	- experience from the teacher a growing elaboration and sophistication in the use of vocabulary and sentence structure
Reading	- build up a sight vocabulary of common words	 continue to build a sight vocabulary of common words from books read and from personal experience 		
Writing				- to use dictionaries and thesauruses to extend and develop vocabulary and spelling

Reading vocabulary

"word-synthesis and word-analysis skills, which receive much attention in the early stages of the teaching of reading, can, in Middle an Senior classes, be developed more fully and used in conjunction with vocabulary-building activity"

Curaclam na Bunscoile (1971) (p.106)

The Voluntary State Curriculum



Standard: General Reading Processes

Topic D - Vocabulary:

Students will use a variety of strategies and opportunities to understand word meaning and to increase vocabulary

Indicator 1

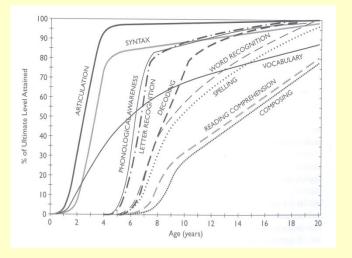
Develop and apply vocabulary through exposure to a variety of texts

- a. Acquire new vocabulary through listening to, independently reading, and **discussing** a variety of literary and informational texts
- b. Discuss words and word meanings daily as they are encountered in texts, instruction, and conversation

Indicator 3

- Understand, acquire, and use new vocabulary
- Use **context** to determine the meanings of words
- Use **word structure** to determine the meanings of words
- Use resources to confirm **definitions** and gather further information about word
- Use new vocabulary in **speaking and** writing to gain and extend content knowledge and clarify expression

Strong focus on enabling skills

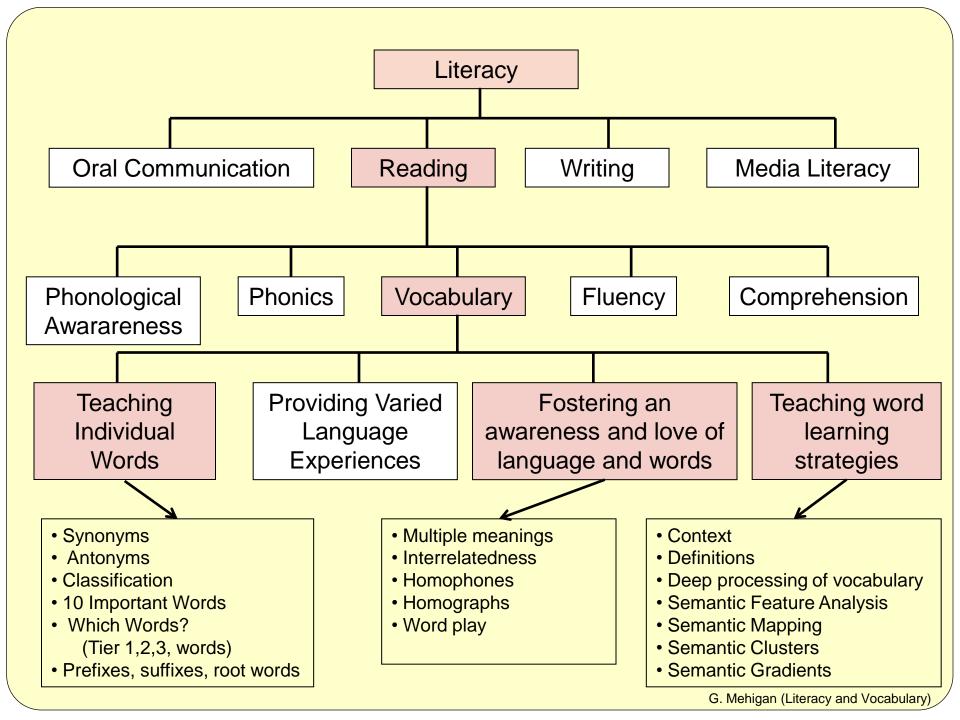


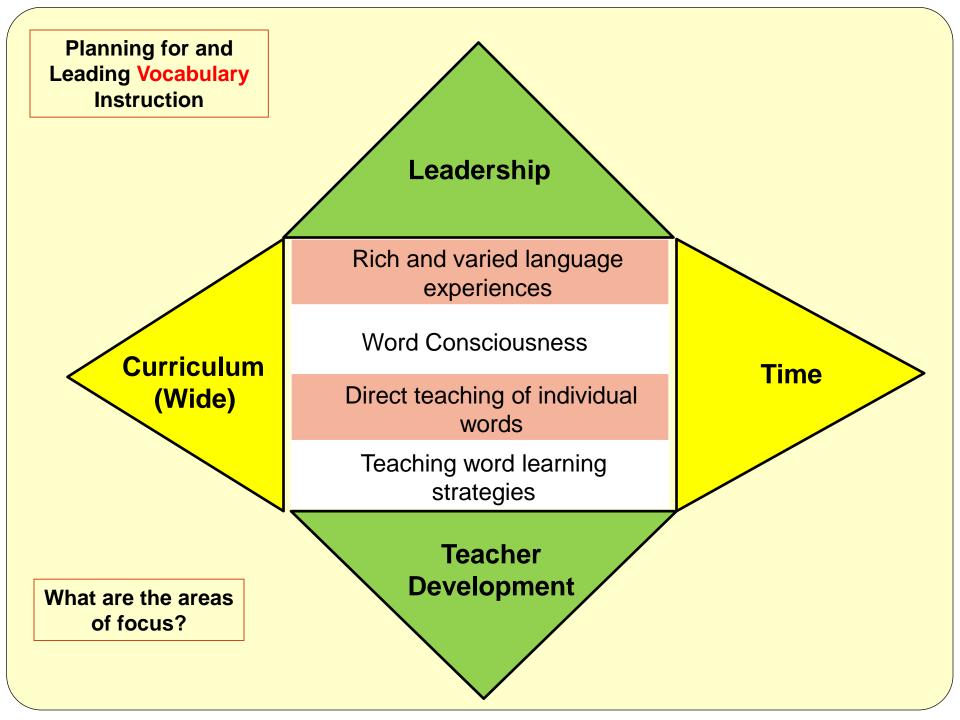
- Phonemic awareness
- Letter recognition
- Decoding
- Phonics
- Oral reading fluency

Danger of plateau effect

Challenge

- 26 letters of the alphabet
- 44 phonemes
- 75,000 words
- It is clear that teachers must teach the sounds and letters systematically and explicitly — the challenge is how to teach 75,000 words!!





"When it comes to words, every person is destined to be a lifelong learner."

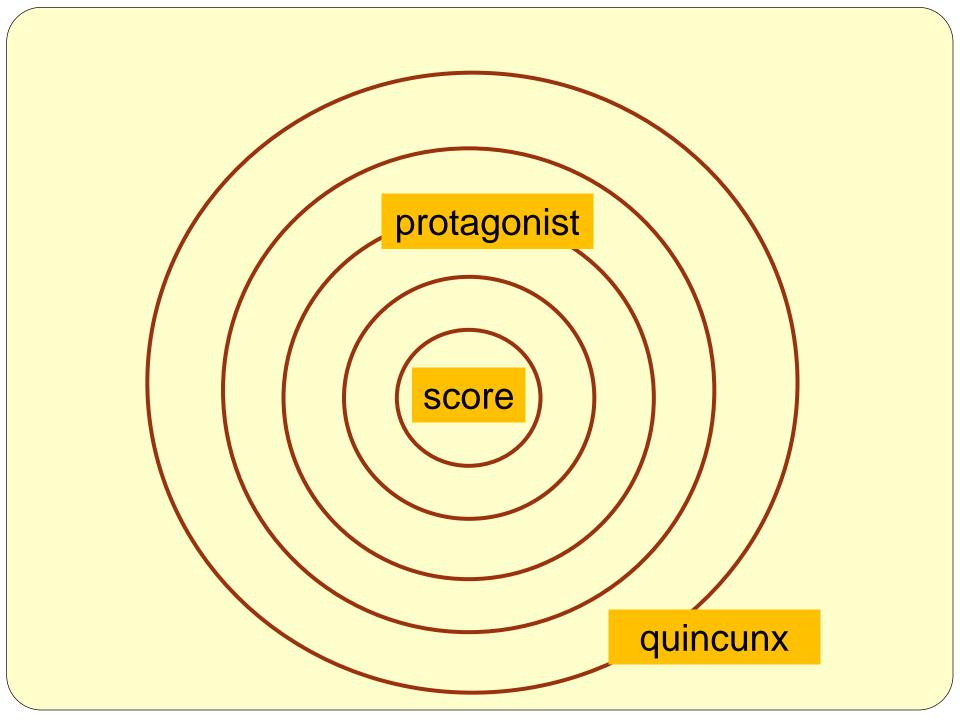
Dale Johnson (2001)

Word knowledge

(Not an all or nothing aCtivity!)

How well do we know words?

	1	2	3	4
	I know the word and could use it in conversation or in my writing	I know the word and understand what it means	I remember seeing or hearing it before	Don't know it and haven't heard it
score				
hippopotamus				
quincunx				
protagonist				
parsimonious				



Teaching Individual Words

Which words to teach?

Two pieces from 'middle classes'

Girl in Goal

Rob Childs

*Can I play?" The boys looked round in surprise. They were just about to pick sides for their lunchtime kickabout.

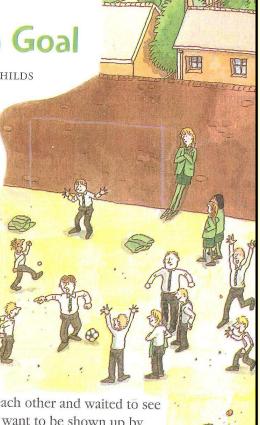
"Go on, let me play in goal."

"You must be joking," said Ben, captain of Gateway Juniors soccer team. "Girls are no good at football. Clear off, Samantha."

She stayed where she was.

"They called me Sam at , my old school."

The footballers grinned at each other and waited to see what Ben would do. He didn't want to be shown up by this new girl in front of all his mates. She was bigger than him and he didn't fancy the idea of trying to get rid of her by force.



Matilda

Roald Dahl

Chapter Three: Miss Honey

A atilda was a little late in starting school Most children begin Primary School at five or even just before, but Matilda's parents, who weren't very concerned one way or the other about their daughter's education, had forgotten to make the proper arrangements in advance. She was five and a half when she entered school for the first time.

The village school for younger children was a bleak brick building called Crunchem Hall Primary School. It had about two hundred and fifty pupils aged from five to just under twelve years old. The head teacher, the boss, the supreme commander of this establishment was a formidable middle-aged lady, whose name was Miss Trunchbull.

Selecting words for instruction

	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Description	Basic words that most children know before entering school	Words that appear frequently in texts and for which children already have some conceptual understanding	Uncommon words that are typically associated with a specific domain
Examples	umbrella, hot, happy	lonely, fortunate, curious	revolution, peninsula, staccato

(Beck, McKeown, Kucan, 2002)

Girl in Goal

Rob Childs

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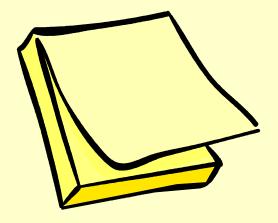
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(
Word as appears	Meaning in the	Synonym (S) Antonym (A)	Other Words or Interesting Information
in text	text	Other Meaning (O)	
pick	choose	 select (S) to gather (O) to nibble (O) to steal (O) 	 "I'll pick you up after the match" "If you lose the key you'll have to pick the lock" You can use that pick to break up the ground "Pick a fight with someone your own size"
round	behind	 straight (A) circular shape (O) stage in a competition 	 I'd love to play a round of golf with Rory McIroy. The boxer was knocked out in the first round. After the robbery the police had to be quick to round up the local suspects.
fancy	like	•wish (S) • special or unusual (O)	 I fancy an ice-cream Fancy that!

Ten Important Words



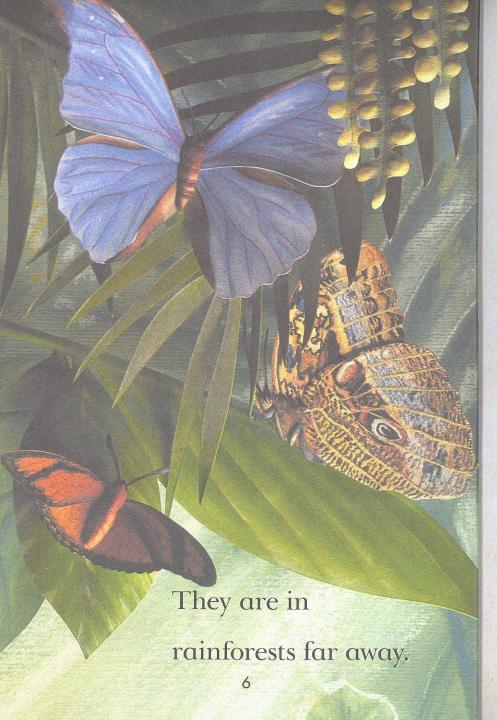
Analyzing Text to Select Important Words While Reading (informational) Text

How can **Ten Important Words** help vocabulary development

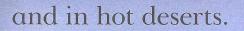
Two objectives

 Support children in using context to identify important words

 Extend understanding of these words through further exploration Butterflies live all over the world. They are in backyard gardens.



You can find butterflies on cold mountains . . .





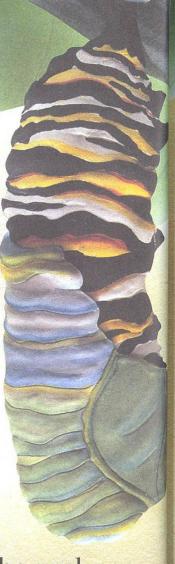
Butterflies are insects like flies and ladybugs. They have six legs, a body in three parts, and skin that is hard like a shell. Like most insects,

butterflies have wings.

A few days later, the egg hatches. Now it is a tiny caterpillar. 16 All the caterpillar does is eat and rest, eat and rest. It chews up many leaves. It grows and grows.

17

Two weeks go by. Now the caterpillar is ready to change. It finds a safe spot on a twig or leaf. It spins a silk pad. It hangs down from the pad.



It looks as if the caterpillar is just resting. But it isn't! Slowly, it sheds its skin. Then it forms a hard shell. Inside the shell, the caterpillar is changing.

Butterflies Important Words Graph

butterfly									
butterfly		wings	caterpillar						
butterfly	insects	wings	caterpillar			flower			
butterfly	insects	wings	caterpillar		egg	flower		spins	
butterfly	insects	wings	caterpillar	fly	egg	flower	sheds	spins	
butterfly	insects	wings	caterpillar	fly	egg	flower	sheds	spins	hard

One sentence summary:

Prompt Cards						
Pink:	List synonyms or related words for sheds.					
Green:	Write sentences using words from the graph.					
Blue:	Pick 4 words and draw a picture.					
Orange:	Find some little words 'hiding' in words from the graph.					

Find some little words 'hiding' in words from the graph.

- butterfly:
- insects:
- caterpillar:
- spins:
- wings:

but, butter, fly

in

cat, pill, pillar, ill in, pin, spin, pins win, in, wing

Process for Ten Important Words

Introduce book/text, read and model

Create class graph

- Discussion and summary
- Explore the chosen vocabulary (prompt cards)

Word Learning Strategies

Using definitions and Context

Important to have of student-friendly definitions

e.g. Compare these two definitions of *dazzling*

bright enough to deprive something of sight temporarily

or

if something is dazzling, that means that it's so bright that you can hardly look at it

Dictionary Definitions

- (Most) dictionary definitions are not effective for learning the meanings of words.
- Students often take one or two words from a definition to be a word's entire meaning.
- There are often multiple definitions; which is the most appropriate?
- Dictionaries often use the word itself in the definition!

Clear & Understandable Definitions

Collins COBUILD Jew Student's Dictionary real English Plus 200-page English Grammar G

Paperback: 1088 pages Publisher: Harpercollins Canada; 2nd edition (January 2002) ISBN: 0007120346 Defines words in easy to understand language and gives a sample sentence for each word.

e.g. furious

Definition: *"if someone is furious, they are extremely angry"*

Sentence: "He was furious at the way his mother had been treated"

Contextual Approach

May not be sufficient as a means of teaching new meanings

• Although John was very rich, his brother was destitute.

not jealous, unconcerned, generous, charitable,

Depends on the sentence

Meaning of corpulent

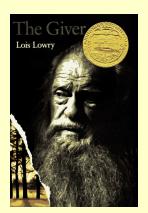
- Mr. Smith was a <u>corpulent</u> man.
- Mr. Smith was a short and <u>corpulent</u> man, with a very large head and no neck.
- Mr. Smith was a <u>corpulent</u> man, who appeared to burst out of his clothes in every direction.

Using context clues and antonyms

- He was so parsimonious that he refused to give his own sons the few pennies they needed to buy pencils for school. It truly hurt him to part with his money.
- His brother was the opposite. He always bought gifts for his friends and was really generous.

Definitional and Contextual Information

"Now he saw another elephant emerge from the place where it had stood hidden in the trees. It reached up, broke some leafy branches with a snap, and draped them over the mass of torn thick flesh. Finally it tilted its massive head, raised its trunk, and roared into the empty landscape."



Definitional & Contextual Information

Story Sentence	Meaning	Our Sentence
Now he saw another elephant <u>emerge</u> from the place where it had stood hidden in the trees.	To come into view; to come up to the surface	Shane can swim under water for one minute before he needs to <u>emerge</u> to breath
Then it reached up, broke some leafy branches with a snap, and <u>draped</u> them over the mass of torn thick flesh.	To place casually and loosely; to hang or arrange in folds	We <u>draped</u> the flag from the top window of our school one week before the All Ireland.

Deep Processing of vocabulary

Depth and Breadth of Vocabulary

• Full understanding and use of vocabulary "occurs only over time and multiple encounters."

(Beck, McKeown, Kucan, 2002)

Knowing many words is to have breadth of word knowledge.

A word's literal meaning, its connotations, semantic associations such as synonyms and antonyms - these refer to depth of word knowledge. (August et al, 2005)

Learning new words...what does this mean?

- Not just learning to recognise words (in print)
- Acquiring new meaning
- In-depth word knowledge
 - e.g. Children encounter *delicate* and *astonishing* (Tier 2 words) in their text

Encouraging Deep Processing delicate

Let's play a word game. I'll tell you about some things.

If you think it is weak, say "that's delicate!"

If you think it is not very weak, say "that's not very delicate!"

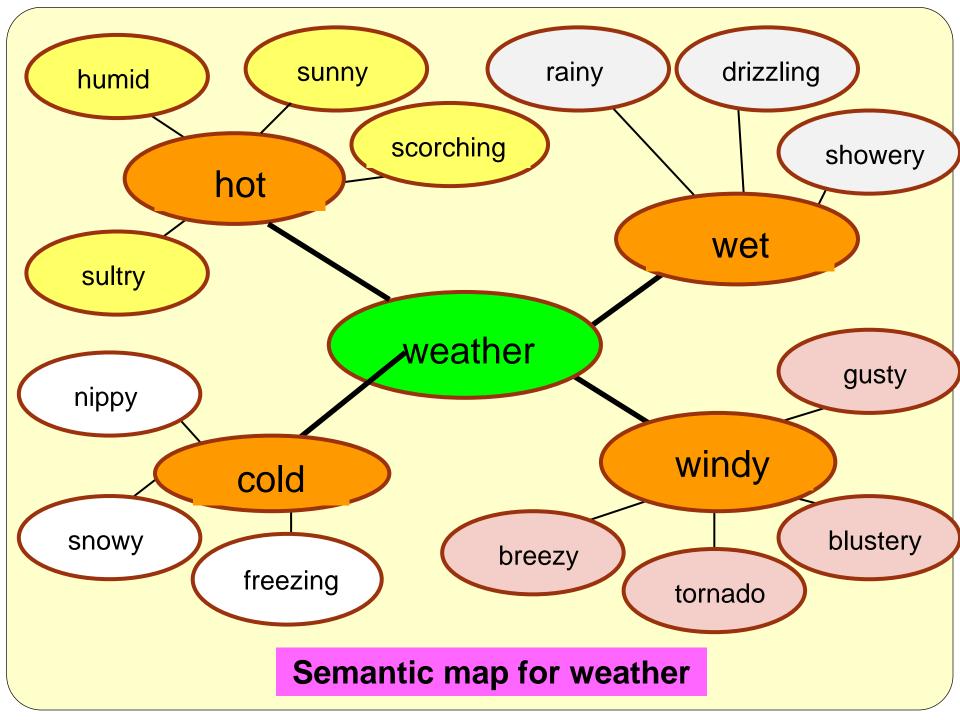
Examples:

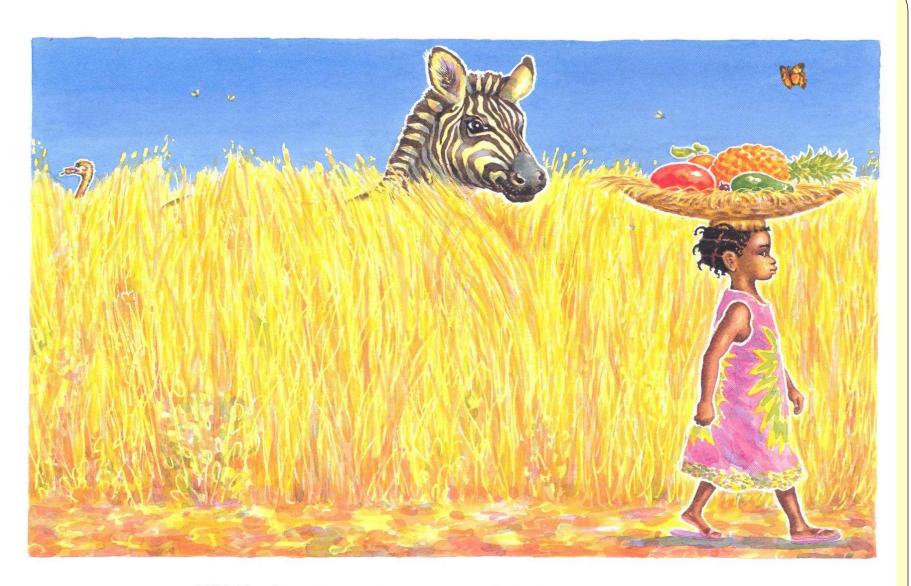
- A big truck on the motorway.
- A little paper airplane on a windy day.
- A tall tower made of straws.
- This school.
- butterfly's wing.

Astonishing (not just surprising)

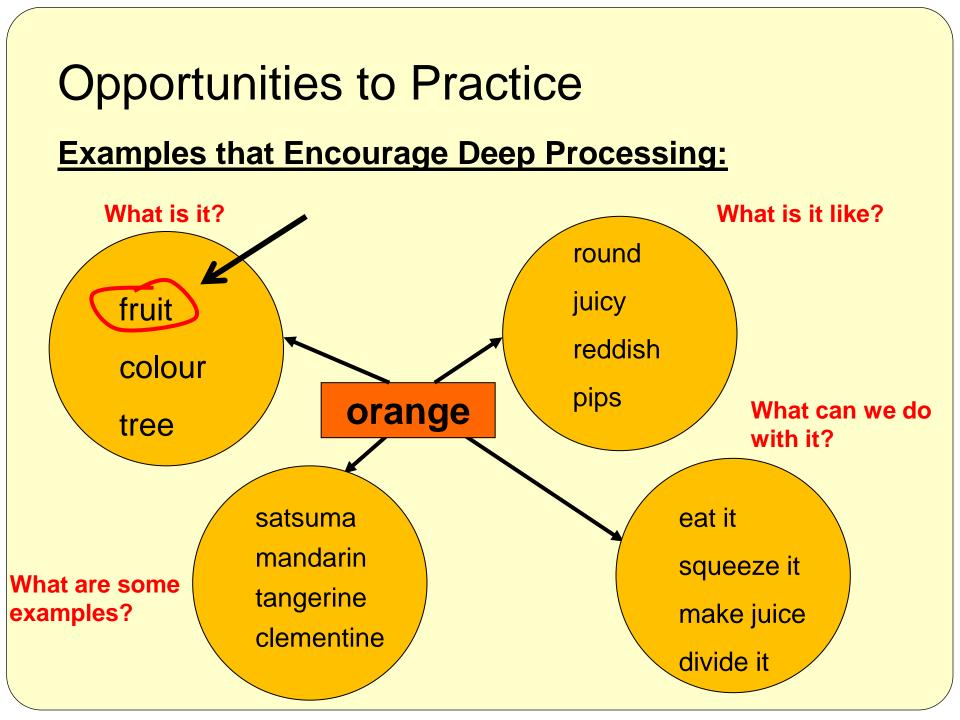
Which of the following would be astonishing?

- a clock on the wall
- a magician doing a trick
- a cold ice cream
- a cow driving a car
- Minister Quinn announces a pay increase for principals!





Will she like the round juicy orange ...



A fill-in-the-blank game using ORANGE

O <u>c t o p u s</u>

(an underwater creature with eight legs)

R <u>i v e r</u>

(something that runs but has no legs)

(a favourite fruit given to a teacher)

(another name for your bellybutton)

(another colour that oranges can be)

Ε

G

Α

Ν

(how often you should eat colourful fruits and vegetables)



GG looked at the orange shorts with the yellow ducks. Then he looked at the yellow t-shirt with the big orange sun. 'I will look silly,' said GG. 'Everyone else will be wearing a suit.' Globby looked at the clock.

'Hurry up,' he said. 'It doesn't matter what you are wearing. They will just want to know all about you.' Multiple meaning and deep processing Molly's Mammy was not up.

She was fast asleep.

Molly called her.

She called her again and again.

'Mammy, Mammy,' she called in a big loud voice. 'You have to get up now. You are late. You are very sleepy in the morning but Lucy and I are not sleepy at all. Mammy, I think **you** are the sleepyhead!' On my street a car drove extremely *fast* by my house.

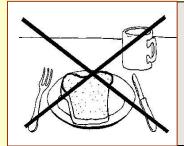




I kept a *fast* grip on the bar throughout the ride.

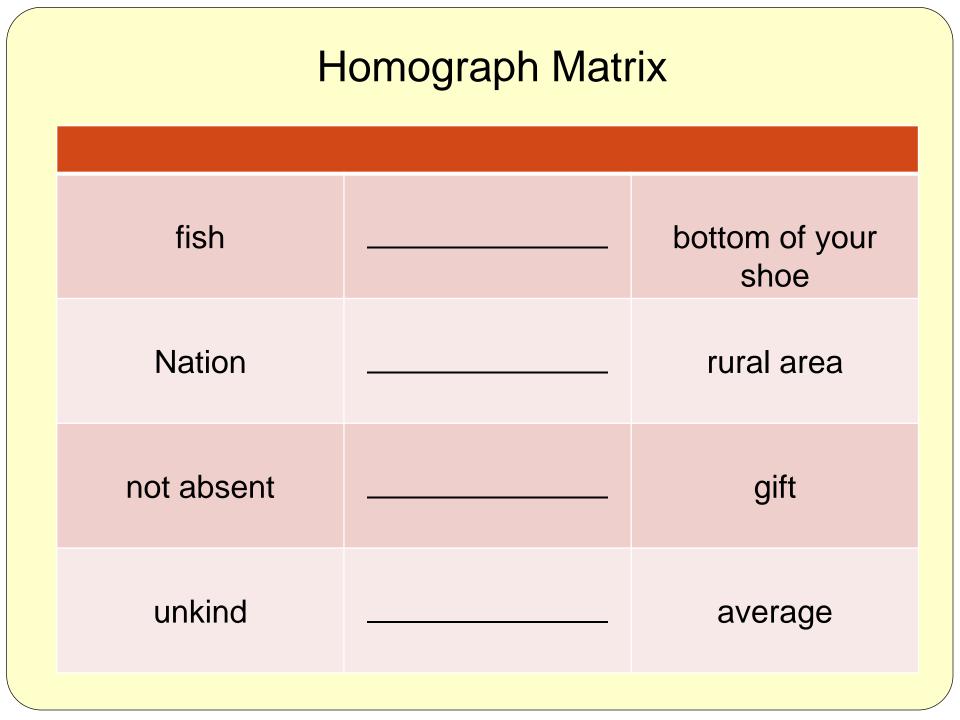


My watch was running *fast*. Molly's Mammy was not up. She was <u>fast</u> asleep.



When people fast they usually don't eat. Multiple meaning words and context

- Mark spread some _____ on his bread.
- I was late for work because of the traffic _____.
- Sarah had to _____all her clothes into one suitcase.
- The driver had to _____the brake pedal to the floor to stop the bus.



Word Consciousness (fostering an awareness and love of language and words)

People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.



- Dale Carnegie

Strategies for creating word consciousness

- Word walls
- Words of the week

http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/word-week

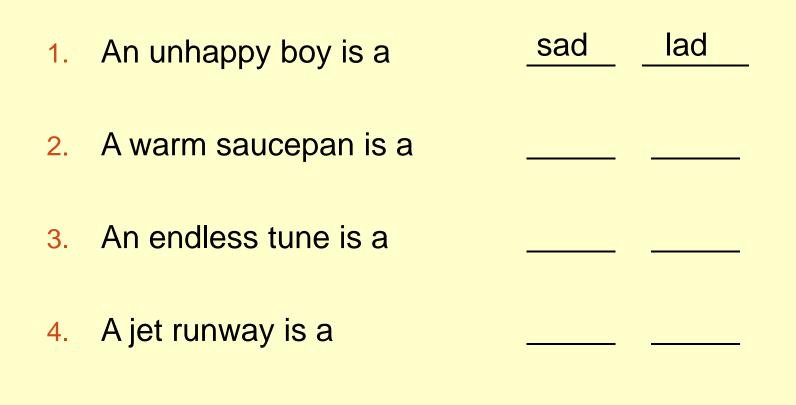
- Word Jars
- Word journals
- Etymology
- Portmanteaux
- Word Play
- Games



Capitalising on children's sense of rhyme

1.	A high fence is a	tall
1.	A happy father is a	Dad
2.	An ill hen is a	sick
3.	A tent light is a	lamp

Hink Pinks



Hinky Pinky

- improved symbol of the alphabet <u>better</u> <u>letter</u>
- friend who fell in wet dirt
- rabbit that tells jokes
- Violin in the centre
- Box for rocks

Homophones

What might you call seven days in a row that are not strong?

<u>weak week</u>

What would you call a aircraft that is not fancy?

plain plane

What would you call when glass in a window has an ache?

pane pain

Interrelatedness

Interrelatedness

Vocabulary expansion involves not just the acquisition of the meaning of individual words but also learning the relationships among words and <u>how these words relate to each other</u>.

Pikulski & Templeton 2004

Words Sorts

stallion, mare, goose, bull, cow, gosling, hen, filly, gander, chick, colt, foal, rooster, calf, horse

stallion, mare, bull, cow,, colt, foal, calf, horse, filly

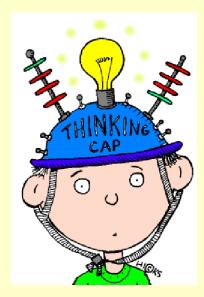
hen, rooster, goose gander, chick, gosling

stallion, rooster, bull, colt, gander

mare hen, goose, filly, cow

foal, calf, gosling, chick, horse,

Making connections between words with semantic gradients



Gradable Antonyms

• Choose a gradable antonym (eg: hot/cold, big/small)

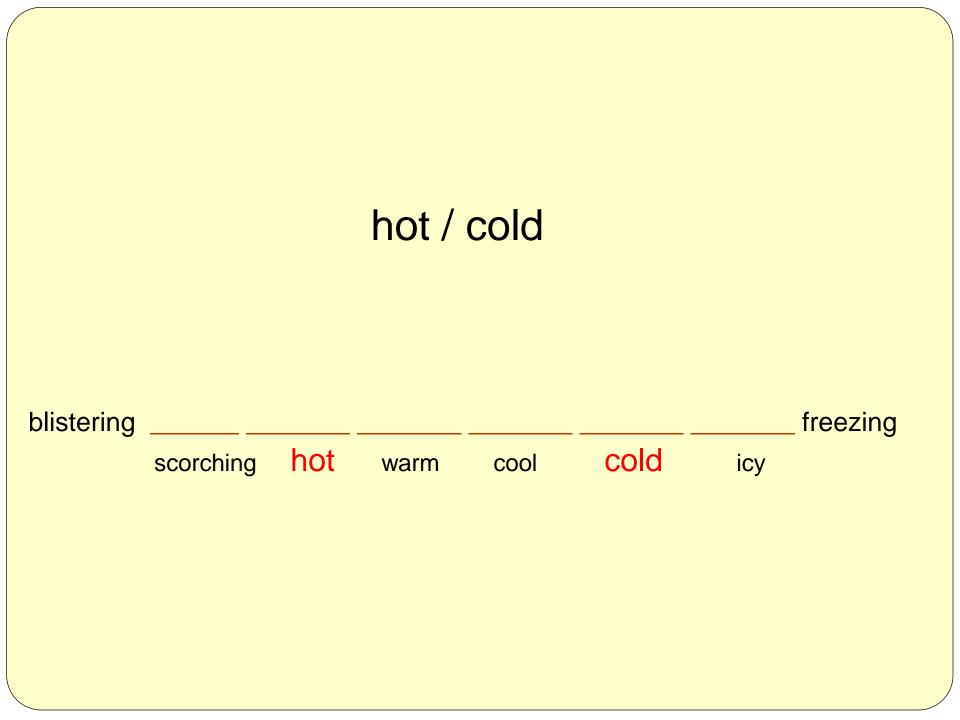
- Split into groups of 4 or 5 or into two teams
- Brainstorm related words in the groups (eg: hot, cool, cold, warm)
- Arrange the words in a continuum

(eg: hot, warm, cool, cold)

Share and discuss the word lists with the group

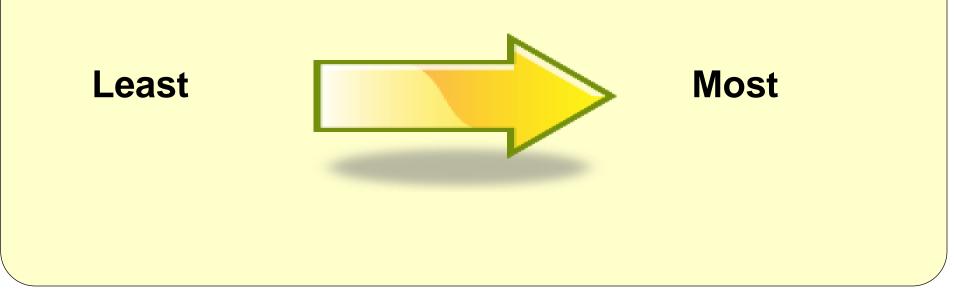




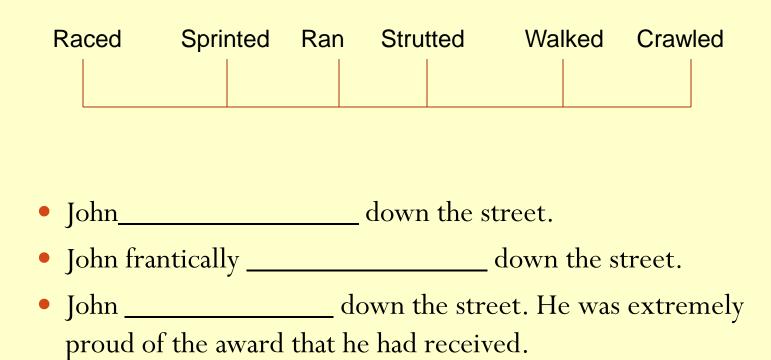


Semantic Gradient

like	adore	fancy
cherish	love	admire
exalt	adulate	treasure



Semantic gradient in context

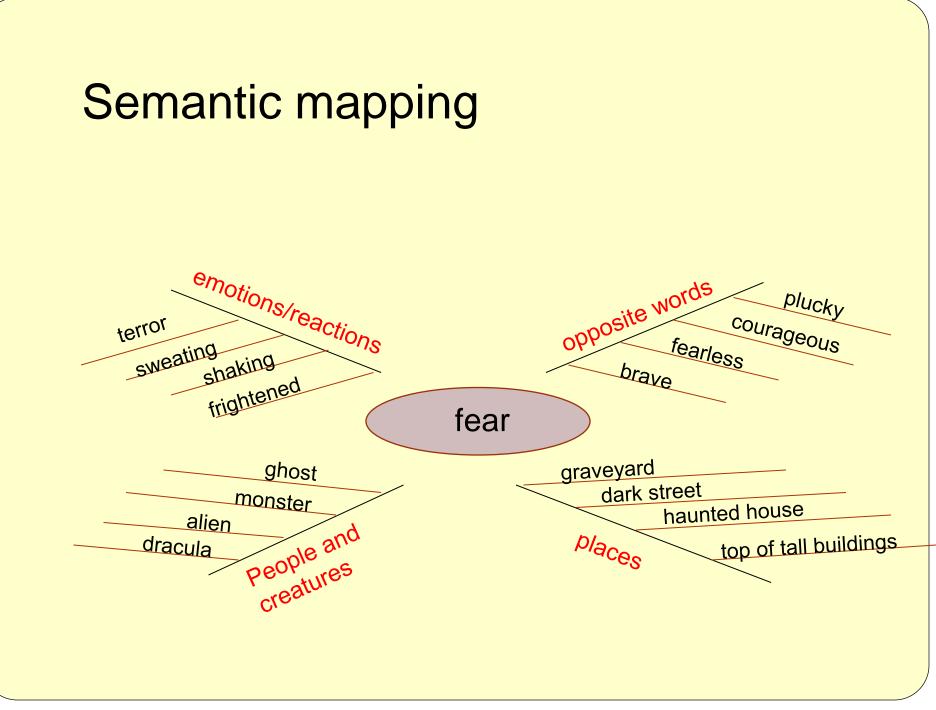


Greenwood, S.C., & Flanigan, K. (2007). Overlapping vocabulary and comprehension: Context clues complement semantic gradients. *The Reading Teacher*, 61(3), 249-254.

Exploring a concept in relation to other words



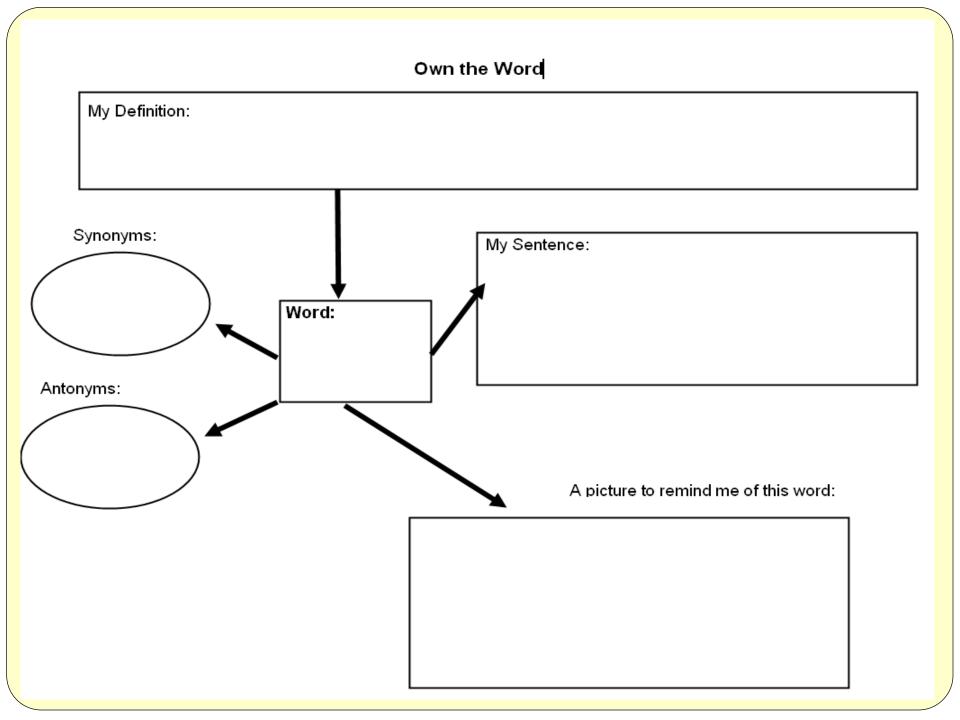
Something was coming. Chip picked up the pin. "Oh help!" he said.



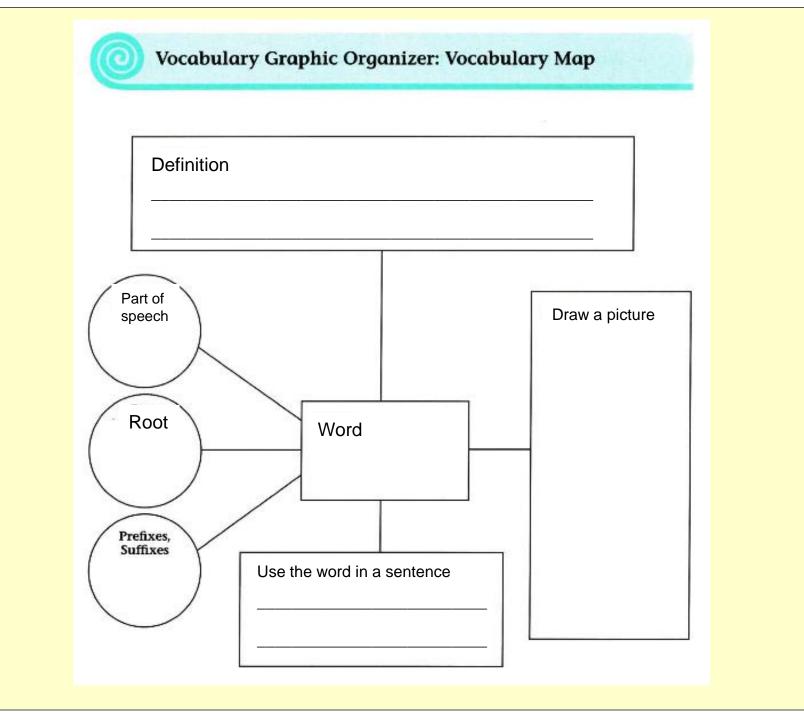
Strategies for teaching words (Using graphics to help with vocabulary development)

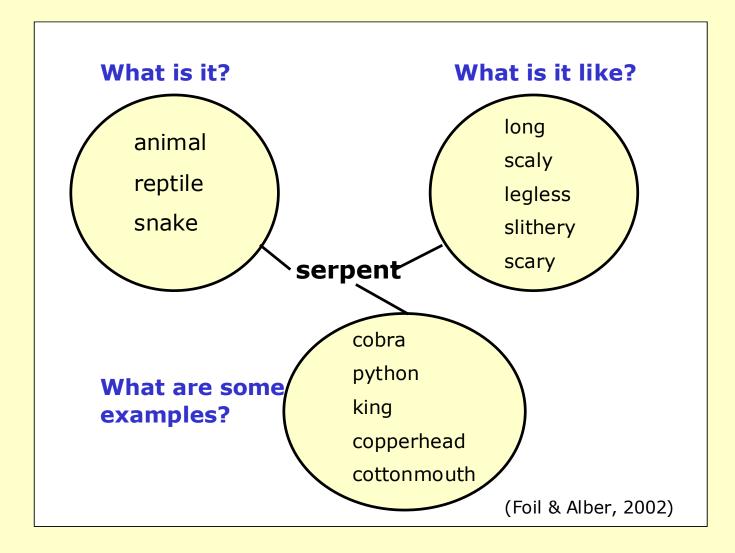
Semantic Feature Analysis

	Typical Characteristics					
transportation	Has only two wheels	Needs fuel	Has more than two wheels	Has a door	You see them regularly on the road	
car		X	X	X	X	
bus		X	X	X	X	
bicycle	X				X	
ship		Х		X		
train		X	X	X		
skateboard			X		?	
tricycle			X		?	



Vocabulary	/ Graphic Organiser: Word Chart
Word	
Definition	
Synonym	
Antonym	
Use in a sentence	
Draw a picture	
	-



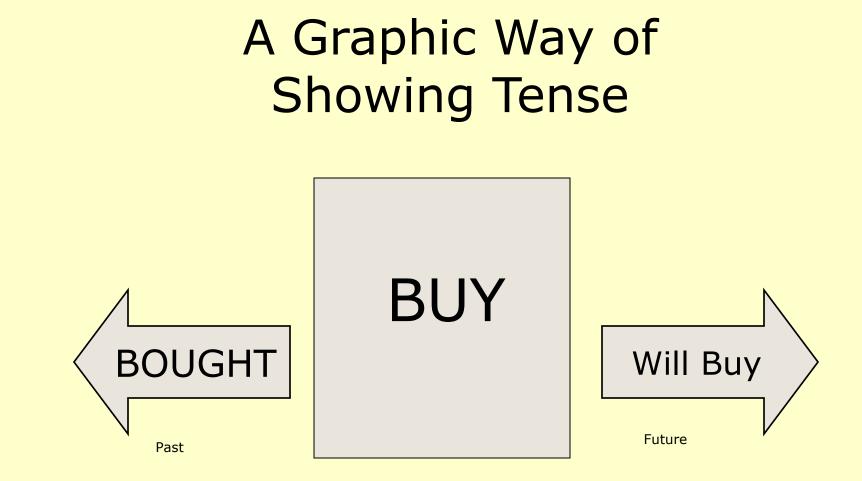


Learn & Draw a Word		
Word: laugh	Means: making sounds to show you are happy or think something is funny	
Synonym: chuckle, giggle	Antonym: cry, weep	
Sentence & Picture		
I had to <u>laugh</u> when I saw the clown fall into the bucket of water		

Strategy adapted from: Nickelsen, L. (1999). *Quick activities to build a voluminous vocabulary*. New York: Scholastic, page 19.

Semantic Clusters for a Word Wall

Furniture	Animals	Feelings	Food	Things we use
table chair bed seat	fox elephant mouse monkey chicken	happy sad upset angry afraid brave	bread jam vegetables pizza sandwich meat	scissors fork hammer pen ladder Microwave
People	Games	How we move	What people do	How we travel
brother sister mother father aunt cousin parent child	football basketball chess hopscotch	walk amble sprint crawl run hop	Teacher Doctor Judge Nurse	Train Airplane Boat Bicycle Ship Bus car



Present

Vocabulary and writing

My adventure in jung opes wron a time I was on a dig africansatari. my mann gave me a campea. I went to tacke a pickteringfor the plande teneshens the 9. odgirochatborrogon of wen I Eurned around It Was terating. I was very Verg frightend. Suddenly I herd a loud Grol behind It was Shircan he came creeping up to me it found diner: sade Shircan I ran as fast as i clud but Shitcan Was faster Suddenry I got Lost and I Revise I was in the Jungle I Stopt and Looked around wen it tured night time I tooked up at the Moonlight and have to get home next morning I Weke us and went Looking For my brekfist.

adventure 🗸
African african
safari ✓ camera camrea
herd v elephants elephens
group groop
terrifying terafing loud growl loud grol
creeping
realised relist jungle √
moonlight ✓
breakfast Brekfist

My tavorit purt is obout when they pact the apls breause the apls are joosee and crachee

Míle Buíochas

gene.mehigan@mie.ie