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Vocabulary Instruction 2

Direct vocabulary instruction helps students learn difficult words, especially when words are not part of their everyday experience or schema.

Direct instruction entails two facets:

1. Specific Word Instruction
2. Word Learning Strategies

Specific Word Instruction

- PRE-TEACH specific words to strengthen your student's vocabulary and reading comprehension of classroom materials.
- EXTEND instruction over a period of time as well as encourage students to seek these words in their environment. When words are used in different contexts, students are more likely to attach meaning accordingly.

Word Learning Strategies

For obvious reasons, it is impossible for teachers to provide specific instruction for all words that their students do not know. Therefore, the following word learning strategies are meant for student use when determining the meaning of words that are not directly taught to them, though still unfamiliar.

- Use dictionaries and other reference aids such as glossaries and thesauruses.
- Use word parts (prefixes, suffixes) to help learn meaning of new words.
- Use context clues or hints about the meaning of an unknown word that are provided in the words, phrases or sentences that surround the word.