

## What is Vocabulary?

Vocabulary refers to the words we must know to communicate effectively. It includes the words -

- We need to know to understand what we hear
- We use when we speak
- We need to know to understand what we read
- We use in writing



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## Starting Statements?

Discussion Starters



1. Low socioeconomic students enter school about \_\_\_\_\_ words in their vocabulary and middle class students enter with about \_\_\_\_\_. (Graves, Brunette & Slater, 1982)
2. The proficient elementary student learns about \_\_\_\_\_ words per day. (Beck & McKeown 1996)
3. The typical 3<sup>rd</sup> grader knows about \_\_\_\_\_ words (Nagy & Anderson 1985).
4. Teaching \_\_\_\_\_ words explicitly to elementary students per year will result in knowledge and comprehension improvements (Beck, et, al, 1982).
5. It is estimated that \_\_\_\_\_ minutes of reading a day could lead to a gain of 1000 words or more per year (Nagy, Anderson & Homan, 1987).
6. English language learners can learn conversational English in two years or less; but may require from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ years to catch up with their monolingual peers in academic vocabulary.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ most frequently used words in the English language constitute 90 percent of the words in the average school texts.

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## Why is Vocabulary Development Important?

- Vocabulary development is an essential component of comprehension.
- Beginning readers use their oral vocabulary to make sense of the words they see in print.
- Readers must know what most of the words mean before they can understand what they are reading.
- Vocabulary refers to the words we must know in order to communicate effectively.
- Vocabulary has a long-term impact upon individual powers of communication, learning, understanding, and applying information.

(Anebruster, Lehr, & Osborn, 2001)

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