

### But, I'm a Content Teacher.... What Should I Do?

- Select fewer words, such as the big ideas or key concepts. Help your students to recognize that many words have shades of meaning.
- Pre-teach vocabulary connected to the key concepts when necessary.
- Help students to make connections and/or associations between familiar and unfamiliar concepts.

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### What Else Should I Do?

- Use words in context.
- Avoid mindless drill or ineffective dictionary work. When students need to consult a dictionary, make sure that they know how to find the definition appropriate to the content being studied, not just the first definition.
- Encourage outside recreational reading with a similar content theme as the one being studied.
- Be enthusiastic about word study, the vocabulary of your discipline, and your own vocabulary development.

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### Recommendations for Teaching ESL/ELL

- Provide multiple sources or contexts for encountering new words
- Use clear images, either visual or auditory or both, for the forms of new words
- Help with learning the meaning of words
- Help to establish strong memory connections between the forms and meanings of the words
- Provide authentic opportunities to use words

(Hatch and Brown, 1995 as cited in Blachowicz & Fisher, 2000, p. 514)

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