

Vocabulary Instruction

Choosing Words to Teach

Tier III

Tier III words are low-frequency words and are limited to a specific “domain”. They often pertain to a specific content area. These words are best learned within the context of the lesson or subject matter.

Examples: atom, molecule, metamorphic, sedimentary, continent

Tier II

Tier II words are high-frequency words that occur across contexts. These words are used by mature language users and are more common in writing than in everyday speech. Tier II words are important for students to know to enhance comprehension of a selected text. Tier II words the best words for targeted explicit vocabulary instruction.

Examples: hilarious, endure, despise, arrange, compare, contrast

Tier I

Tier I words are the words we use everyday in our speech. These words are typically learned through conversation. These are common words that rarely require direct instruction.

Examples: come, see, happy, table

