

ELL Quick Tip

Do you have an ELL student and wonder how to help him/her in the classroom?
Then the ELL Quick Tip is for you!

Tip #2

To teach key vocabulary words, try this five-step process:

1. Teacher defines the word
2. Teacher draws a picture to represent the word
3. Student writes definition in own words
4. Student draws a picture to represent the word
5. After instruction, student revisits picture to refine, add, change.

***After students draw their pictures, have them explain the picture to someone else.**

Do I use this technique for all new vocabulary terms?

No, if you used this strategy for every new word, you would not have time to teach anything else. This technique is effective for KEY vocabulary terms that students will encounter in many different contexts or that are crucial concepts to the lesson or unit.

Why is this a good strategy for ELL students?

This is a research-based vocabulary technique effective with **ALL** students from *Classroom Instruction that Works*, by Robert Marzano, et.al. It is especially helpful for English learners to draw a representation of a word **and** to provide a written definition. When students draw a picture for a word without a written definition, the student may forget how the drawing was supposed to represent the word, making it difficult to recall the meaning of the word at another time.

Younger and/or less proficient students may copy the teacher's definition and/or picture. This is fine at first. One benefit to drawing a picture for a word is to be able to **explain** what the drawing means and how it represents the word. Even if a student copies the teacher's picture, if s/he can explain how it represents the word, the student will gain a deeper understanding of the word and be more likely to remember its meaning.