

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 #9

“Word of the Week”

INCREASE CONTENT VOCABULARY IN 10 MINUTES A WEEK!

Procedure:

Select a KEY vocabulary term that is central to content the class is studying. In elementary classrooms, this can be a math, social studies, or science term. In secondary classrooms, this can be a term that is central to the meaning of a text students are reading or one that is critical to understanding the current unit of study.

1. Write the word on the board on Monday.
(Create a permanent space in the room where you can post each Word of the Week.)
2. Introduce the word (5-10 minutes)
 - Have students share what they know about the word and record their responses
 - Look for possible cognates that will help students with the meaning of the word
 - Provide a working definition that all students understand
3. Use the word intentionally throughout the week. Acknowledge students each time they use the word correctly. Encourage students to look and listen for the word in other contexts (other classes, books, television, at home, ...).
4. At the end of the week, add this word to a list posted in the room (e.g., Words We Know...). Continue to use this word intentionally in your instruction.

ENTRY TASK IDEA:

As students enter class each Monday, have them look at the new word posted and write or draw what they know (or guess) about it. When you are ready, you can return to the word to discuss it and define it as a class.