Teach &
Kids Learn

Course Title: Building Academic Vocabulary and Deep Comprehension (Elementary)	
Number of Content Modules: 5	Grade Levels: K-5
Questions: 1-855-498-4400 PD@TeachnKidsLearn.com	TKL Catalog: https://teachingknowledgeloop.com/external-catalog

Course Description

This course on building academic vocabulary and reading comprehension will provide educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively support language development and reading comprehension.

The course will cover key instructional strategies for building academic vocabulary and improving reading comprehension, including techniques for introducing and reinforcing language skills, such as morphology and syntax. Educators will also learn about the unique assets and needs of multilingual learners and will explore strategies for supporting their vocabulary acquisition, reading comprehension, and language development. In addition, the course will examine the importance of teaching content vocabulary, its role in improving reading comprehension, and discipline-specific knowledge.

Throughout the course, educators reflect on their teaching practices and develop a plan for incorporating effective vocabulary and reading comprehension instruction in their classrooms. The goal of the course is to empower educators to become confident and competent teachers who can effectively facilitate students' language development and reading comprehension.

Course Objectives

CO.1 Apply culturally competent practices to increase learning equity by analyzing and altering their beliefs, norms, assumptions, and practices about vocabulary instruction. (Danielson Components 1a, 1b, 2b, 3c, 4e)

CO.2 Use strategies and understandings about how teachers' and students' personal identities, cultural backgrounds, and biases impact the teaching and learning of vocabulary skills in the classroom. (Danielson Components 1b, 2a, 2b, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.3 Create a welcoming, affirming, and structured classroom learning environment that will support the equitable needs of students with their vocabulary development. (Danielson Components 1b, 2a, 2b, 3c, 4a;)

CO.4 Classify the importance of identifying important Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III words that students must master for the relevant grade level and content area. (Danielson Components 1a, 1c, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.5 Learn the importance of strategic and systematic vocabulary instruction to help students grow and expand their vocabularies in essential ways. (Danielson Components 1a, 1c, 1e, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.6 Design text-dependent questions and questioning strategies to help students access important elements of comprehension while reading text. (Danielson Components 1a, 1c, 1e, 2b, 3b, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.7 Apply essential elements of morphology to include affixes and key content root words to help multilingual students unlock word meanings. (Danielson Components 1a, 1c, 1e, 2b, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.8 Understand and use effective vocabulary-building strategies and evidence-based practices to help their students experience multiple exposures to words over time. (Danielson Components 1a, 1e, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.9 Implement specific vocabulary-building strategies for multilingual populations in the classroom. (Danielson Components 1a, 1b, 1e, 3c, 4a, 4e)

CO.10 Identify important academic vocabulary that students must master to grasp the ideas and concepts in academic content areas. (Danielson Components 1a, 1e, 2b, 3c, 4a, 4e)

Course Outline

Course Introduction Module	
Course available completely online (24/7 and Self-Paced)	Assignments due by the end of the term.

Module Topics

In this module, you will learn about the course set-up, expectations for learning and collaborating, meet your colleagues, and reflect on your prior knowledge about teaching with artificial intelligence.

- Course Navigation & Methodology
- Course Description
- A Transformative Approach to Education
- Expectations and Community Agreements for Engaging in Brave Dialogue
- Community Building Circle: Course Story
- Course Objectives

Module 1: What is Academic Vocabulary?

Module Topics

Academic Vocabulary is the language students are expected to learn and speak within specific content areas. The terminology used in these subject areas is not usually spoken in conversation; therefore, students need explicit instruction. This module will focus on addressing and delivering this instruction to students, especially those of marginalized groups. Here, vocabulary instruction, tier levels of vocabulary, and their complexity are some factors we will be considering. We will also look at how our biases and our students' cultural perspectives impact their learning and instructional practices.

Section 1.1: Teaching and Learning with Multicultural Populations
- Reflect on It! Beliefs and Assumptions About Vocabulary Learning Shape Practice (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! How Does Culture Impact Teaching and Learning? (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Critical Consciousness, Race, and Equity (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Language, Race, and Power (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Culturally Responsive Settings and Instruction (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! Bias, Peanut Butter, Jelly, and Racism (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! The Key to Developing Student Vocabulary (30 min.)
- Practice It! Understanding Ourselves (1hr.)

Section 1.2 Introduction to Academic Vocabulary
- Reflect on It! What are Tier Words? (1.5 hr.)
- Practice It! Choosing Words to Teach (1 hr.)
- Learn About It! Vocabulary Instruction for Young Students (15 min.)

- Learn About It! Vocabulary Learning for Intermediate Students (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! Making Changes (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Helping Students Learn New Words (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Who Are Your Students (30 min.)
- Practice It! Best Practices in Vocabulary Instruction (30 min.)

Module 2: Instruction that Strengthens and Expands Vocabulary

Module Topics

Educators will explore vocabulary's vital role in students' mastery of different content areas. Through these activities and instructional practices, educators will learn the cognitive aspects of learning vocabulary and how cultural identities and other factors impact students' ability to develop the skills needed to attain and master new terminology.

Section 1: Expanding Vocabulary in a Culturally Responsive Classroom
- Learn About It! Six Steps to Better Vocabulary Instruction (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Ways to Teach Vocabulary in the Classroom (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Connecting Meaning with Word Walls (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Exploring Resources for Vocabulary Learning (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Visualizing and Drawing Words (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Sketchnoting (1hr.)
- Master It! Making Revisions to a Vocabulary Lesson (2 hr.)

Section 2: Teaching Vocabulary in a Culturally Responsive Classroom
- Learn About It! Views on Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (1 hr.)
- Learn About It! Respecting Personal Identity (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Culturally Responsive Reading Growth (1 hr.)
- Practice It! The Role of Text in a Multicultural Classroom (1 hr.)

Module 3: Learning about Language and Morphology

Module Topics

Learning the various parts of words and language can develop students' skills to attack new and unknown words. In this module, educators will understand the morphology of words and plan vocabulary instruction that is culturally responsive, engaging, and relevant.

Section 1: Introduction to Language and Morphology
- Reflect on It! Tackling Linguistic Bias in the Classroom. (30 min.)

- Reflect on It! Vocabulary: 5 Common Teacher Misconceptions (1 hr.)
- Learn About It! Intro to Morphology (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Why Teach Word Parts? (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Culturally Relevant Tips for Teaching Vocabulary (15 min.)
- Learn About It! Resources for Engaging Students with Morphology (1 hr.)
- Learn About It! Using Word Parts for Vocabulary Development (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Building Word Knowledge Through Figurative Language (45 min.)
- Master It! Developing a Plan for Teaching Morphology (2 hrs.)

Module 4: Building and Connecting with Words
Module Topics

Teaching vocabulary to multilingual populations may present a new set of challenges, especially for specific content-specific lessons, yet also be beneficial when considering foundational primary language knowledge. However, educators will learn and discuss how to address these obstacles and still help students thrive and succeed when learning about any subject.

Section 1: Supporting Vocabulary Learning in the Classroom
- Learn About It! Deepening Reading Comprehension Through Words (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! Connecting with Personal Identity Through Books (15 min.)
- Learn About It! Robust Vocabulary Learning (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Questioning that Deepens Comprehension (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! What are Text-Dependent Questions (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Using Text-Dependent Questions (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! Designing Evidence-Based Conversations (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Advanced Questioning Techniques (30 min.)
- Practice It! Planning Text-Dependent Questions (1 hr.)

Section 2: Building and Using Vocabulary in the Classroom
- Reflect on It! Multicultural Education Research (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Connectedness and Learning (15 min.)
- Practice It! Creating an Anti-Bias Classroom Culture (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Teaching Academic Language (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Helping Students Expand Vocabulary (1 hr.)
- Reflect on It! Using Word Induction to Learn New Words (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Write to the Source (1 hr.)

Module 5: Strengthening Language Skills in Multilingual Students
Module Topics

Teaching vocabulary to multilingual populations may present a new set of challenges, especially for specific content-specific lessons, yet also be beneficial when considering foundational primary language knowledge. Educators will learn and discuss how to address these obstacles and still help students thrive and succeed when learning about any subject.

Section 1: Multilingual Students and Language
- Reflect on It! Dismantling Barriers to Language Development (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Multilingual Student Needs (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Helping Students Expand Success (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Effective Language Learning Strategies (15 min.)
- Learn About It! Culturally Responsive Teaching for ELL Students (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! Supporting Parents of Multilingual Learners (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Identity Safe Classrooms (15 min.)
- Learn About It! Creating Welcoming Classrooms for Multicultural Students (15 min.)
- Reflect on It! Helping Multicultural Students Feel Welcome (30 min.)
- Reflect on It! Refining Instruction for Multicultural Learners (30 min.)

Section 2: Scaffolding Vocabulary Learning to Improve Learner Success
- Learn About It! Scaffolding Academic Learning for Multilingual Students (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Scaffolding to Match Learner Needs (30 min.)
- Learn About It! Creating Scaffolds for Academic Learning (15 min.)
- Learn About It! Supporting Learners in Small Groups (15 min.)
- Learn About It! Using Visuals in the Classroom (30 min.)
- Practice It! Personalizing Academic Support (1 hr.)
- Reflect on It! Beliefs and Assumptions Shape Practice (30 min.)
- Master It! Building Vocabulary Learning into Content (1 hr.)

Course Wrap-Up Module
Module Topics

In the Course Wrap-Up Module, you will reflect on your self-efficacy for mastering the course objectives.

Section 1: Summative Course Reflection
- Master It! Summative Course Reflection [30min]
- Reflect on It! Course Evaluation and Feedback [30min]
- Learn about It! Course Reference List