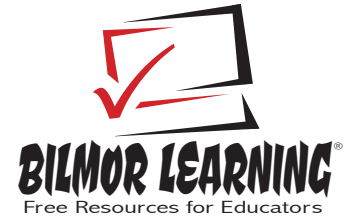


Marzano's Six Steps for Mastering Vocabulary



A RESEARCH-BASED PROCESS FOR TEACHING ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

adapted from ASCD *Educational Leadership*, Vol 67, Num 1

This strategy is based on over 50 research studies on the best way to help students master key academic vocabulary. Effective vocabulary instruction must involve *all* of the following:

- 1) Provide a description, explanation, or example of the new word.
- 2) Ask students to restate the description, explanation, or example in their own words.
- 3) Ask students to construct a picture or similar symbolic representation of the word.
- 4) Engage students in activities that add to their vocabulary knowledge (comparisons, etc.)
- 5) Ask students to discuss the new words with one another.
- 6) Involve students in games that enable them to play with the new words.

The first three steps are used to introduce new words to students. Steps four, five, and six are used to review the new word (leading to mastery), and can be used in any order.

CROCODILE TEETH

Here's an example of how the six-step process works. Assume a science teacher is introducing the term *mutualism*. Instead of just offering a textbook definition, the teacher tells an anecdote that illustrates its meaning (step 1). For instance, the teacher might explain the relationship between a crocodile and an Egyptian plover, describing how that illustrates mutualism. (Crocodiles don't eat plovers; plovers clean crocodile's teeth.)

After this introduction, students devise an explanation in their own words or give an example of mutualism from their own lives (step 2). Then they draw an image depicting what they think mutualism means (step 3). After a few days, the teacher reviews mutualism using steps 3, 4, and 5. These steps may be done in any order, and may be repeated until the word is mastered.

Marzano found that when this process is applied properly, it works in all grades from kindergarten through high school and in all subject areas. The full article can be found at: www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sep09/vol67/num01/Six-Steps-to-Better-Vocabulary-Instruction.aspx