

6 Simple Steps to Build Vocabulary

Step 1 Teacher presents the term in **“student-friendly”** language (including descriptions, examples and nonlinguistic representations of the term).

Step 2 Students **restate** the term in their own words (linking the new word to known experiences and background knowledge).

Step 3 Students represent the term in **graphic form** (reinforcing and deepening understanding through processing in a second modality)

Step 4 Students use the term in **other contexts** (deepening meaning by applying the term in new situations, through writing or conversation)

Step 5 Students **discuss** the term with peers (building understanding as a class, and augmenting this knowledge with new discoveries about the word)

Step 6 Vocabulary **games** give students more exposure to the term (serving as a continued review in ways that engage multiple modalities for learning.)



“There’s a strong, statistical link between a person’s vocabulary knowledge and students’ comprehension ability; and there’s a very strong link between these two and academic success.”

Nancy Padak, Professor Emeritus & Vocabulary Expert, Kent State University