

Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week: Spring Review

What?

Academic Vocabulary is frequently used by students in school and throughout their lives for assessments, tasks, discussions, and writing. Students must understand these words not just to be successful in elementary school but at universities and for their future careers.

Why?

Academic vocabulary is critical for student success on assessments! "Over 80% of students' reading comprehension test scores can be accounted for by vocabulary knowledge," according to Reutzel & Cooter (2015). Holy cow! So in other words, if a student doesn't understand what is being asked of them on assessments, because they're lacking the critical vocabulary, that has a profoundly negative effect on their performance that can be easily rectified.

How?

This is the easiest part...anyone can learn new vocabulary words, all it takes is practice, practice, practice! Learn about the word, understand its meaning, practice using the word...over and over and over until it becomes a word that is comfortably & easily used in discussions and on tasks or assessments .

Word of the Week Activity:

1. Take a look at your list and add the "Words my Way Journal" slide for any words you may have missed this year.
2. Use the flashcard slides along with the flashcard games slides as a way to practice the vocabulary words. *For grades 3-5 this is great test prep for SBACs!*

Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week Home Connection:

Dear Parents,

Vocabulary acquisition is incredibly important for your child's academic success! *"One of the key indicators of students' success in school, on standardized tests, and indeed, in life, is their vocabulary. The reason for this is simply that the knowledge anyone has about a topic is based on the vocabulary of that information (Marzano & Pickering, 2005)." - Marilee Sprenger, ASCD.org*

Working with your child regularly to expand their vocabulary will have profound effects on their verbal, reading, and writing skills. This in turn will improve their academic and future occupational success. Below are some suggested ways to improve your child's vocabulary:

- Work with them to complete the Word of the Week Activities included on the slide deck
- Have discussions with them on the topic of your choice that forces them to practice using the Academic Vocabulary words correctly. This way you are able to correct any misunderstandings.
- Encourage them to play digital games on various vocabulary websites.
- Practice writing, on any topic, using the vocabulary words. For younger students have them just practice writing the word itself and/or the word and the definition or a simple sentence.
- READ, READ, READ, READ, and READ some more. Have your child read as many books as they can on their level or read to them if they're younger. Reading content doesn't have to be just physical books it can also be digital, magazines, newspapers, articles, poetry, comics, etc., anything that gets your child interested in reading!

Vocabulary Resource Links:

1. [Vocabulary - RUNDLE](#)
All Rundle Vocabulary activities, past & present, featured here; check them out!
2. [Vocabulary.com](#)
3. [ImagineLearning.com](#)
(your child can access this through their Clever account)
4. [Magoosh](#)
5. [Spellingcity.com](#)
6. [Turtlediary.com](#)
7. [symbaloo](#)

Academic Vocabulary Words List:

1. Persuade
2. Identify
3. Recall
4. Compare
5. Contrast
6. Explain
7. Summarize
8. Illustrate
9. Clarify
10. Synthesize
11. Analyze
12. Demonstrate
13. Locate
14. Construct
15. Debate
16. Justify
17. Categorize
18. Infer
19. Sequence
20. Organize
21. Describe
22. Argue
23. Predict



Academic Vocabulary Flashcards -

Flashcard games: Depending on the reading level of your child, they may need help reading the words and playing the games but the more they play, the better their vocabulary. HAVE FUN!

1. **Memory**- lay all the cards face down and a player turns over 2 cards. If they're a match (definition matches word) then the player gets to go again. If they're not a match then it becomes the next player's turn. Play until all matches have been made.
2. **Word of The Day** -Put learned flashcards into a hat and allow your child to choose one from the hat each day. Talk about that word, define it, use it in a sentence, write the word, draw a picture for it.
3. **"If you think you know the word shout it out!"** - sung to the tune of, "If you're happy and you know it..." sing the song and spell out a word and ask your child to tell you what the word spells. If they're able to, ask them to tell you the definition or use the word in a complete sentence. *Example: If you think you know the word shout it out, "r-e-c-a-l-l" and your child will respond with, "recall!"*
4. **Hide n' Seek** - Have someone hide flashcards in various locations in your home. Have your child then look for the cards. As the words are found, ask your child to read the word to you. Discuss with them what the word means and to try to tell you a complete sentence using that word.
5. **Slap a Word**- post a word on a door frame that's frequently used and every time you see the word slap it and say the word aloud. Define the word in your own words or use it in a sentence.

Academic Vocabulary Flashcards continued ...

6. **Build the word**- using playdoh or small random objects, build the letters in a vocabulary word. Read the word and talk about it. If you don't have playdoh, cornstarch and shampoo or conditioner make a great DIY dough!
7. **Pictionary**- using the flashcards, choose a word and draw it out and have other players try to guess the vocabulary word you are drawing.
8. **Charades**- using the flashcards, choose a word and act out the word and have other players try to guess the word you are acting out.
9. **I spy**- place the vocabulary words around the room in visible places. Choose a word and have other players try to guess the word by the clues you provide. "I spy with my little eye a word that begins with C..." play until the word is guessed or the other player gives up!
10. **Story Time!**- Choose a word and tell others that you will tell a story. Each time they hear the word they have to clap or raise their hand. It may be helpful to write the story beforehand in order to make sure that the word is said several times. You can create your own story or take a familiar story and add in your word where it fits.
11. **Alphabetize or Backwards Alphabetize**- Put the words in ABC order or backwards in ZYX order.
12. **Write the Room**- post the flashcards around the room in various places. Give your child a writing tool and paper with a clipboard or hardcover book to write on and have them write the vocabulary words they see around the room.
13. **Pictionary (Personal Dictionary) or interactive notebooks**- Provide several pieces of paper together for your child to create their own personal dictionary or pictionary, words with definition and pictures to match. If paper is not available your child can create their own interactive dictionaries.
14. **Vocabulary Word Hopscotch**- place the flash cards on the floor in a hopscotch style pattern and have your child hop on the word reading it aloud and using it in a sentence or explaining the definition aloud.

Academic Vocabulary Flashcards continued ...

15. **Go fish** - Place all the cards in a pile and then hand out 5-8 cards to each player. Each player takes turns asking another if they have the matching definition, picture, or vocabulary word to make a set. IF the other players do not, they say, "go fish!" and that player must draw a card from the pile.
16. **Bean Bag Toss**- Place cards face down on the floor. Have your child toss bean bags onto the cards and they must be able to say the word or define it to keep the card. If he/she can't read the word or define it then it gets turned over and another player gets a try.
17. **SPOOKY WORDS**- Place vocabulary cards around the room and turn off the lights and using the flashlight shine it on the words and have your child read the word and try telling a spooky little story using the vocabulary word.
18. **Vocab Karuta** - Spread the vocab cards out on a table face up. Say a word and have the other players try to be the first to grab or slap the said card. If the first player to slap the card can correctly read it and tell you about that word then they get to hold onto the word. See who can collect the most cards. Try this game using fly swatters!
19. **Fishing for Vocabulary**- Fix paperclips to the flash cards and fashion a fishing pole with a magnet tied to the end of a piece of string. When your child "catches" a card they must read the word and tell you a fishy tale about it otherwise they must release it back into the "pond." Example: word- "locate" The big stinky fish located a cute little fish for his dinner but it got away!
20. **Crash** - Place the vocab cards in a line on the floor. Two people start at either end and to the side of the line of cards. On start, the students say the name of each card as they move toward each other. Upon meeting (students cannot occupy one card at the same time), they play 'rock, paper, scissors.' The winner stays in place and the loser goes back to his start position and the game begins again. The first player to reach their opponent's start position wins! Fun!

Academic Vocabulary Flashcards continued ...

21. **Vic Vac Voe**- tic tac toe for vocabulary! Place 9 cards in a 3x3 shape and players take turns choosing a card to complete 3 in a row by correctly reading the vocabulary word and using it in a sentence.
22. **Roll the Dice!** Choose six vocabulary cards you would like to practice and place them on the table. Give each card a number from 1-6. Have your child roll a die. Ask your child to read the word and tell you about it. Play with more than one person and the first person to say the name of the vocabulary card with the same number as the dice wins a point. Play until one team reaches 10 points.
23. **Roll and Run**- Start on one side of the room and roll a die. Read the word that corresponds to that number and spell it out or tell all about it then “run” that many steps toward the finish line designated on the other end.
24. **Vasketball**- Vocabulary basketball, write the words on paper and ask your child to read the word or spell it or define it, etc. If they do so correctly they get to crumple it up and “shoot it in the basket.” The basket can be a trash can or box or any receptacle. For fun, add points for hard shots or harder words!
25. **Flashcard long jump**- place tape in parallel lines across the floor or lay out string. Place a vocabulary word next to each line. Have your child jump and see how far they can go and then read that card. Sing and spell the word aloud and then run back to try it again. Rearrange the words to keep your child practicing all the vocabulary words!

Have another idea? Send a picture or video of your flashcard activity to your teacher to post on the Rundle website so we can all learn, practice & play your way!

Explain

: TO MAKE KNOWN

//PLEASE EXPLAIN THE SECRET OF YOUR SUCCESS.



Summarize

:to tell or reduce to a short statement of the main points.

//I summarized the article for my teacher.

SUMmarize It

Shorter than the text

Use your own words

Main ideas only 

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http://www.heidilouisa.com

Analyze

:to study or examine something carefully to find out what it is, what it is about, or what makes it work.

//The bacteria were analyzed under a powerful microscope.



Recall

:the act of remembering

//I have little recall of being 3 years old.

:to cause to return; call back

//The lawyer recalled the witness to the stand.



Compare

:To identify similarities

//She compared the apples to oranges.



Contrast

:to show differences when compared; be different; show the opposite of

// Compare and Contrast the characters in the tests.

:degree of difference between the lightest and darkest parts of a picture or photographs.

//The contrast on that painting is brilliant!



Identify

: To recognize something and understand what it is
//The winning students were identified.



Demonstrate

:to show clearly; to prove and make clear
//He demonstrates a willingness to change.



Describe

:to tell or report details about something either out loud or in writing.
//Describe your favorite family tradition.



Argue

:to give reasons for or against something

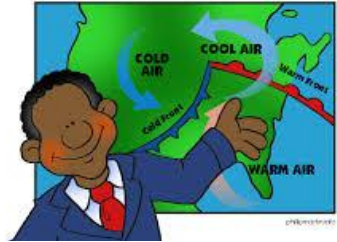
//The Senator argued in favor of lower taxes.



Predict

:to say something that will or might happen in the future; to forecast

//The meteorologist predicted the rainy weather today.



Construct

: to make or form by combining or arranging parts or elements; to build.

// They worked together to construct an argument for the writing project.



Synthesize

:to bring ideas together, or to make something out of parts which were independent.
// He synthesized old and new ideas to form his theory.

Synthesizing



Putting the Pieces Together

Illustrate

- 1.To supply with pictures or diagrams meant to explain or decorate
// He will illustrate a book.
- 2.To make clear by using examples
// She illustrated her point with stories.



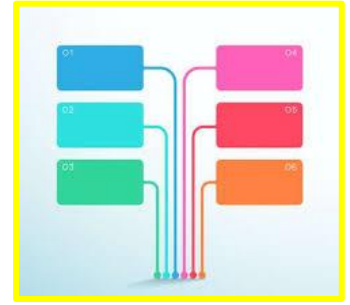
Persuade

: to make someone do or believe something by giving them a good reason; to convince.
// She tried to persuade her parents to buy the new toy.



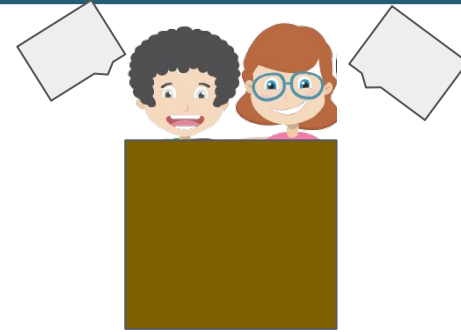
Categorize

:to put (someone or something) into a group of similar people or things; to place into categories
// The House of Reveur is categorized as, "The Dreamers."



Debate

:A discussion between two people or groups who disagree on a subject.
// Team Reveur won the debate because they spoke well and gave a lot of facts to support their argument.



Justify

:to prove or show to be just, right, or reasonable.
// How can you justify your actions?



infer

:to make a guess based on facts and observations; use clues to figure out; draw conclusions.

*// I **inferred** from the books on her desk that she enjoyed reading science fiction stories.*



Sequence

:To arrange in a particular order
//He sequenced the order of events in the story.

:sequential order; steps in a process or event like step-by-step directions.

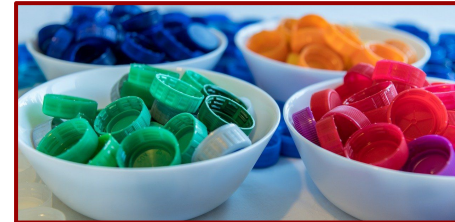
//She wrote the directions in sequential order.



Organize

:to put in a certain order, things can be easily and quickly found.

//The computer organized the files.



Locate

:to find something

//I need to locate the missing toy.



Clarify

:to make clear or easily understood

// She drew a map to clarify the directions.



Definition:

Write a sentence using the Academic Vocabulary Word:

Word:

Illustration:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

(Greek or Latin) Roots of the word: