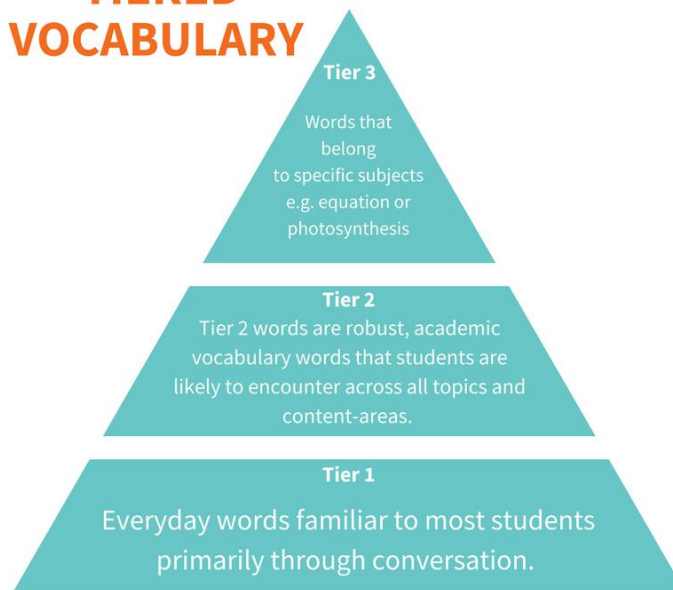


TIERED VOCABULARY



Language is the tool that provides us with the ability to express and comprehend this complex knowledge. This is true for all subjects across the curriculum. English lessons aren't purely about the attainment of new words, but how else can a student understand a text without a solid grasp of the language used? Similarly, subjects like science and maths aren't just about memorising complicated terminology, but it's vital that students know and understand this language so they can unlock the concepts and ideas that lie behind such confusing jumbles of letters.

Tier 2 Words

Tier 2 words are defined as "high-frequency words for mature language users". Put differently, these are tricky, ambitious words that your students are likely to come across again and again in a variety of different texts, contexts and subjects. Whether they're reading works of fiction, worksheets, online articles, or exam questions - these tricky words are probably going to pop up. Think of terms like: 'emerge', 'analyse', 'peculiar' and 'context'. These are words that are not the most basic or common ways of expressing ideas, but they are familiar to mature language users as ordinary as opposed to specialised language. With this in mind, a good way of identifying whether or not a word classifies as tier two is by thinking about if your students are likely to already have the language to rephrase the word in a more simple, basic way. For instance, the word 'soar' is a good tier 2 word to teach because it adds more sophistication and specificity to a student's understanding of the word 'fly'; they will be able to comprehend that soaring isn't just flying, but flying very quickly and high in the air.

Tier 3 Words

If you're teaching your students tier 3 words, then that means you're likely teaching them the language of scientists or mathematicians or historians and literary critics. This is because tier 3 words are defined as subject-specific language, which you will only find being used within the context of that particular field. For maths, this includes words like 'denominator', whilst science lessons might require students to understand the meaning of 'homeostasis'. Often, these words are integral to teaching content for certain topics in certain subjects.