

Tools and Resources for Teaching Tiered Vocabulary without Tears



The 3 Tiers of Vocabulary

- **Tier 1** – The most basic words. Rarely require direct instruction except for our new immigrants. They do not have multiple meanings and are words of everyday speech. The words contained on the Dolsch list we teach to build English reading fluency are also considered Tier 1.
- **Tier 2**- this is academic or mature, sophisticated language that appear across multiple academic content areas in expository texts as well as literature in high frequencies. Tier 2 words have multiple meanings and multiple synonyms.
- **Tier 3**- these words have low frequency and are very specific to a content area or subject. They do not have multiple meanings and because of their low frequency the reader can often find context clues that give them the word meaning.

Word Sort

I Don't Know the Word	I Have Seen or Heard the Word, Don't Know What It Means	I Think I Can Guess the Meaning of the Word	I Know the Meaning

Clasificación de palabras

No sé la palabra	He visto o escuchado la palabra antes pero no sé el significado	Pienso que puedo adivinar el significado de la palabra	Yo sé el significado

We all know visuals take word walls to the next level. Here are some links and resources for the artistically challenged...

Math images

- <http://www.mathsisfun.com/>
- Click on the dictionary tab

Science Images

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/images.html>

Images for Multiple Content Areas

- http://www.teacherfiles.com/clip_art.htm
- <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/clipart/>
- <http://etc.usf.edu/clipart/>
- <http://www.pppst.com/clipart.html>

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