

# TEACHING VOCABULARY

*without* using the dictionary!

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## TEACHING VOCABULARY ... *without* using the dictionary!

### 1. Choose One Meaning

Words often have multiple meanings and uses. Instead of focusing on the multiple meanings, like we find in the dictionary, choose the one that best fits your context when introducing a word.

### 2. Explain the Meaning in Student-Friendly Language

Simple definitions often don't share all the nuances of a word's meaning. Students need to hear longer explanations with easy to understand examples.

### 3. Word Connections

Help learners see how the meaning of one word is connected to another word they know. Once learners know a word, ask them to think of other words that come to mind when they see the word.

### 4. Word Categories

Help learners see how the word fits into a certain category. For example, *drizzle* could fit into the category of weather. Could it fit into another category, too?

### 5. Give Learners a Reason to Use the Word

Create fun games or incentives for using the word in the right context...even in their writing! Display words and keep a tally of when they are used.

### 6. Switch-a-Word

In conversation, purposely switch a simple word for a new word you know (like *exclaimed* instead of *said*). Ask learners to try the same thing.

### 7. Draw It!

Learners can draw the word's meaning. They could include a sentence with the word in it under the drawing, too.

### 8. On the Contrary...

Once learners have a clear meaning, think about words that mean the opposite of the word. (This helps with categorizing the word.)

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This printable page gives you  
8 creative ideas for teaching  
vocabulary WITHOUT the  
dictionary.

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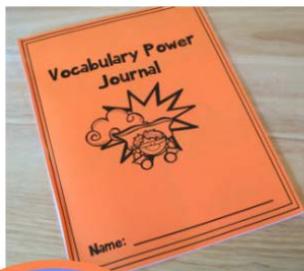
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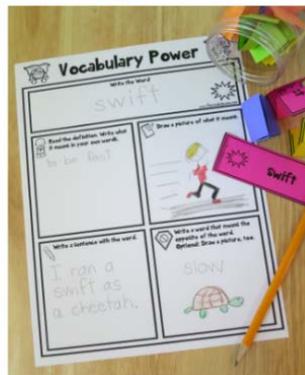
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## Vocabulary Words

Comic Strip Style



## Using Context to Teach Vocabulary

Wow! Word from Text	Word Meaning
astonished	amazed
ponder	think
charming	cute
weep	cry
delight	happy



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