

Principles of Vocabulary Teaching

Describe it

Explore it

Use it



1
Sound it
out

Write
the word
down and say
it aloud,
highlighting
patterns of
letters and
sounds to
support
spelling



2
Simplicity
is key

Offer
a simple pupil
friendly
description
of the word
that unlocks
its main
features and
characteristics



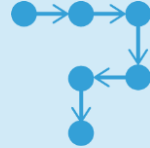
3
Devil in
the detail

Provide
a detailed
description
of a concept,
including all
its category
and semantic
features,
and its
associations



4
Context
Matters

Give
examples and
non-examples
of words in
different
sentences
to show pupils
their usage
in context



5
Paint a
picture

Show
images for
unfamiliar
objects and
diagrams for
abstract
concepts,
processes and
relationships



6
Root
work

Use
etymology and
morphology to
explore the
different parts
of words of
Latin and
Greek Origin



7
Find
and seek

Set
short quizzes
such as MCQ
as retrieval
practice and
opportunities
to check basic
understanding



8
Deep in
thought

Ask
problem-solving
questions to
help pupils think
more deeply
about word
meanings



9
Soak
it up

Design
tasks and
games that
help pupils'
to engage
with the
structure of
words and
their varied
meanings