

## An Instructional Sequence for Pre-Teaching New Words to Prepare Students for a Reading Selection

### \* CONVEY MEANING

- If your goal is simply to familiarize students with a word to increase the likelihood that they will recognize and comprehend it when they encounter it in a reading, follow steps 1-4.

1) Pronounce the word.

*This article focuses on an ecstatic moment in a high school student's life.*

2) Ask students to all repeat the word.

*Say the word ecstatic after me. ( ec stat' ic )*

3) Provide an accessible synonym and/or a brief explanation.

*Ecstatic means extremely happy.*

4) Rephrase the simple definition/explanation, asking students to complete the statement by substituting aloud the new word.

*If you are extremely happy about something, you are \_\_\_\_\_ (students say ecstatic).*

- If your goal is to familiarize students with a word that is central to comprehending the reading and that you also want them to learn, continue to convey meaning with step 5, then be sure to check for understanding.

5) Provide a visual "non-linguistic representation" of the word (if possible) and/or an illustrative "showing" sentence.

*Showing image: a picture of a child smiling eating an ice cream cone*


*Showing sentence: I was ecstatic when our team won the soccer championship.*

Have students fill out a vocabulary worksheet as you pre-teach the words; this involves them more directly and provides them with a focused word list for later study and practice. (See the attached sample chart.)

## \* CHECK UNDERSTANDING

- 1) Ask focused questions to see if students seem to grasp the word's meaning (vs. *Any questions? Do you understand? Is that clear?*). Questions may be initially directed to the unified group for a thumbs-up or thumbs-down response, to teams using Numbered-Heads, or to pairs using Think-Pair-Share, followed by questions to individuals.
  - *Would you be ecstatic if you won the lottery?*
  - *Would you be ecstatic if you were assigned a 20-page report to complete over the Spring break?*
  - *Would you be ecstatic if you won two front row tickets to a concert given by your favorite band?*
  - *Would you be ecstatic if your mother bought your favorite brand of breakfast cereal?*
  
- 2) If the word is crucial (for the lesson and their academic vocabulary tool kit), consider asking students to generate their own relevant images or examples.
  - *Turn to your partner and ask what has happened recently that made him/her ecstatic. Or ask what would make him/her ecstatic. Be prepared to share one example with the class.*
  - *What other images might we associate with ecstatic? Think of 1 or 2, turn to your partner and discuss, then be prepared to share one of your images with the class.*

### Sample Vocabulary Note-Taking Chart

Term	Synonym	Definition/Example	Image
ecstatic, adj.	extremely happy	feeling very happy, excited or joyful	
skeptical, adj.	doubtful	not sure you believe someone or something	Julio is skeptical about his team's performance since the strongest player is injured.