

# Vocabulary

Isabel Beck recommended that **vocabulary words** be sorted into **three tiers**, or levels.

All words need to be understood to comprehend text. Therefore, all tiers are taught in each grade and tiers are subjective based off the age of the children being taught.

**Tier 1:** Everyday common words

- Basic, common vocabulary that children learn early (e.g., sad, laugh, hot)
- Students with impoverished vocabulary may need instruction with these roots.

**Tier 2:** Academic words

- High utility words that are more sophisticated than basic words (e.g., avoid, fortunate, industrious)
- These words should be taught explicitly and directly.

**Tier 3:** Domain-specific words

- Low-frequency words, yet critical to understanding a specific domain; May be unique to certain topics or disciplines (e.g., crochet, seam, bias)
- These words are explained when coming across the word in a text.

(Isabel Beck, Bringing Words to Life, 2013)

