Word knowledge is a predictor of comprehension (Stahl, 1983).

Explicitly pre-teaching vocabulary can help students recall prior knowledge or introduce new words necessary for comprehension (Blachowicz, Fisher, & Ogle, 2006; Jitendra, Edwards, Sacks, & Jacobsen, 2004; McKeown & Beck, 2004).

Explicit teaching means teaching the word meaning in a straightforward way. This means providing direct instruction in the definition of the word (Blachowicz, Fisher, & Watts-Taffe, 2011).
Selecting & Defining Target Vocabulary

1. Break the text into logical sections/chapters.

2. Work with the general education teacher to identify 1-2 important words per section of the text that are important for comprehension and knowledge of the content.

3. Write a clear, understandable definition of the vocabulary word.

4. Provide a picture cue.

5. Identify examples and non-examples that reinforce the meaning of the word.
GROUP ACTIVITY: Adapting Text—Selecting Target Vocabulary

> What vocabulary word(s) would you select from this page?

> Write a clear, understandable definition.

> What is one example and non-example?

> What picture cue would you use?
Vocabulary Examples

**dangerous**

**Dangerous** – something that can hurt you.

Examples of things that are *dangerous*:
- smoking
- speeding

Examples of things that are NOT *dangerous*:
- singing
- laughing
Rewriting Text

- **Instructional Decision:**
  - Is your student an independent reader?
  - Will someone else be reading aloud to them?

- **Break the original text into logical sections**

- **Reduce the number of words in the section**
  - Collaborate with a content expert
  - Prioritize information
  - Repeat key vocabulary
  - I keep it at 1-2 sentences per page for younger students.

- **Write section summaries at a reduced Lexile level**
  - Independent reading: 200-300L
    - Student should be able to read at 90% or higher
  - Read aloud: around 400L
Readability Tools

> Microsoft Word
  - Tools → Spelling and Grammar → Options → Show readability statistics

> Lexile Analyzer
  - [https://lexile.com/ analyzer/](https://lexile.com/analyzer/)
  - You need to create a free account