Literacy Tip: Robust Vocabulary Instruction, Megan Naso

When introducing new vocabulary words, it’s important for students to deal with the word right away. Here are some quick and simple word activities that you could try:

1. **Word Associations**

* After you have presented explanations for your words, ask students to associate the new word with a word they already are familiar with.
* Which word goes with crook? *(accomplice)\*new word*

Which word goes with “gift to build a new hospital”? *(philanthropist)\**

Which word goes with piano? *(virtuoso) \**

Which word goes with kindergartner? *(novice)\**

1. **Have You Ever…?**

* This activity helps students associate newly learned words with contexts and activities from their own experiences. Thus, it helps students understand that they have a place for the word in their vocabularies. In this activity, students are asked to “Describe a time when you might *urge* someone, *commend* someone, *banter* with someone.

1. **Which Would…?**

* Form questions around target words by asking students which they would prefer between alternatives.
* Which you rather *anticipate*- your birthday or a dentist appointment? Why?

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Beck, Isabel L., Margaret G. McKeown, and Linda Kucan. "Introducing Word Meanings."*Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*. New York: Guilford, 2013. 54-53. Print.