

What it is:

The **Budget Vocabulary Matrix** is a strategy in which students are provided with a continuous focus on vocabulary, especially for units in which knowledge of vocabulary is critical for reading comprehension. The matrix can be used as a pre-reading activity for a text or unit or as a year-long process for studying vocabulary in an English Language Development course.

In this sequence, **Budget Vocabulary Matrix** will be used as a pre-reading activity to help students build background before reading the text.

How to teach it:

- Organize students into pairs.
- Place a transparency of the **Budget Vocabulary Matrix** organizer on an overhead projector.
- Next, present to students the target vocabulary provided in the Word section.
- Model reading the definition of the first word and restate the definition in your own words.
- On the whiteboard or an overhead projector, demonstrate for students how to transform your oral definition into a written definition for the Definition section on the organizer.
- Model identifying Related Words for the first word. Remind students that words might be synonyms or antonyms, or related by meaning or word part.
- Show students how to create a sentence for the first word. The Sentence section should be used as an opportunity for students to create their own sentences to show an understanding of the word meaning.
- Model how to draw a visual for the first word. This visual can be On-the-Surface (factual, who, what, where, when) or Under-the-Surface (inferential, speculative). The Visual section provides an opportunity for students to show understanding of the word in a non-linguistic manner.

Budget Vocabulary Matrix

Building Background

Reading

continued

- Provide students with a definition for the second word. As a class, read the definition and discuss the meaning of the word.
- Have the pairs discuss the meaning of the word.
- Conceal the definition and have students write the definition they created in their own words, in the box provided on their organizers. If students are having difficulty, they may copy the definition from the transparency on the overhead projector.
- Repeat this process for the rest of the words.
- Once students have written definitions for each word, ask the pairs to complete the Related Words, Sentence, and Visual boxes for each word.

Budget Vocabulary Matrix



Building Background

Title of Text Baseball and Football: A Closer Look

Word	Definition	Related Words	Sentence	Visual
contrast	to show how things are different	differ; diverge	A time limit for the game is one way football contrasts with baseball.	
spectator	an observer of an event	viewer; watcher	Most spectators of sports prefer to view the action from as close as possible.	
pastime	a pleasant activity that occupies a person's spare time	interest; hobby	Fishing is an enjoyable weekend pastime for many working people.	
uniform	always the same	equal; consistent	Football fields are identical since they have uniform lengths and widths.	
possession	the act of having and controlling something	ownership; control	The teacher took possession of the note because passing notes isn't allowed in class.	