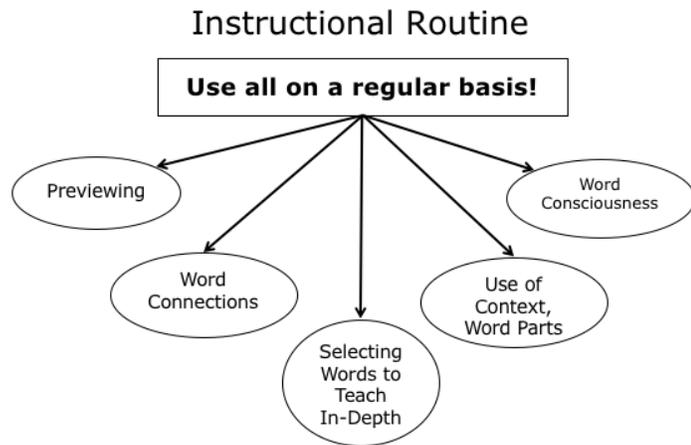# Instruction: The Key Vocabulary Routine

Because good vocabulary integrates several types of instruction, following a routine that combines a set of research-based teaching practices is a good way to ensure that teachers teach vocabulary the best way possible. *The Key Vocabulary Routine* (Sedita, 2005, 2013) is an instructional model that incorporates direct and indirect teaching practices that help students develop both breadth and depth of vocabulary knowledge.

The routine includes five main instructional components, shown in the graphic to the right and in the box below.

Instructional Routine

Use all on a regular basis!

Previewing · Word Connections · Selecting Words to Teach In-Depth · Use of Context, Word Parts · Word Consciousness

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The Key Vocabulary Routine

1. **Preview before reading or read aloud for unfamiliar vocabulary**
   - Identify problematic words, phrases, figurative language
   - Generate a preview list
   - Provide background knowledge about the words to aid in comprehension while reading

2. **Use activities that connect vocabulary to background knowledge and related words**
   - Activity 1: Semantic Mapping
   - Activity 2: Semantic Feature Analysis
   - Activity 3: Categorizing
   - Activity 4: Scaling/Opposites

3. **Select specific words to teach in-depth**
   - Identify a small set of essential academic words
   - Teach all aspects of the words
   - Develop user-friendly definitions

4. **Identify opportunities to teach word learning strategies**
   - Use of context to determine word meaning
   - Use of basic word parts to determine word meaning

5. **Promote word consciousness**
   - Create a word-rich classroom
   - Word play