

Plain and Fancy Vocabulary

As students offer words around a topic, say fruits, teachers record the words. Then students find fancier, or more complex words related to the topic. So for fruits, students might name those they are familiar with. Teachers can extend these words to less familiar fruits or to other vocabulary related to fruits like pollination, seedless, varietal, and so forth. In this way, students' vocabulary is valued as they acquire more academic vocabulary.