# Vocabulary Strand
# **Overview**

## What is vocabulary?

Vocabulary is the knowledge and recollection of word meanings. It incorporates both the comprehension and use of words and requires the understanding of concrete and abstract meanings. Academic vocabulary, in particular, includes the abstract and multifaceted words and phrases most often used in school, civic, and professional settings and texts.

## What is the role of vocabulary in learning how to read?

Research shows that vocabulary knowledge is a strong predictor of later reading success. It is critical to the development of both word identification and reading comprehension. Specifically, strong vocabulary improves the student's ability to recognize words when reading and is necessary for students to understand and connect with the information that they read. Strong vocabulary knowledge also facilitates acquisition of the background information that is essential for comprehension. Given the importance of vocabulary in reading development, systematic, explicit, and meaningful instruction to enhance vocabulary knowledge is critical.

## What is the approach to developing vocabulary in Lexia® Core5® Reading?

Vocabulary instruction must go beyond word definitions in order to affect comprehension. The vocabulary strand in Core5 is structured to teach word-learning strategies, to provide exposure to rich and varied Tier 2 and Tier 3 words, to promote deep knowledge of abstract academic vocabulary words, and to allow students to develop insights into word relationships. These goals are systematically integrated into increasingly more complex activities.

Activities in the early levels of Core5 introduce word-learning strategies by asking students to think critically about words and the concepts they represent. Other early vocabulary activities are aimed at building categorization skills as students must recognize relationships between words. As vocabulary activities progress, students are explicitly introduced to more abstract vocabulary concepts, such as multiple-meaning words, idioms, similes and metaphors, and academic vocabulary terms. Explicit instruction includes pre-teaching key vocabulary before reading, bridging known words and concepts to new words, and providing multiple exposures to words in different contexts. Through these activities, students build both the knowledge and skills necessary for strong vocabulary development while also receiving direct and deep instruction in complex and high-utility academic words in the context of multifaceted topics and texts. The most advanced vocabulary tasks continue to emphasize associations between words through a focus on analogies and shades of meaning. Students analyze associations between words and recognize nuances in word meaning as they think critically about words and their relationships.

In addition to targeted vocabulary activities, students acquire vocabulary knowledge by repeated exposure to the rich language activities that exist in all strands of the Core5 program. For example, early phonemic awareness and phonics activities require students to match pictures to words, building concrete vocabulary knowledge. Later activities, found throughout the Structural Analysis strand, provide students with the skills to analyze prefixes, roots, and suffixes for meaning and encourage the application of this knowledge to connected reading tasks. As such, while the vocabulary strand focuses explicitly on building deep and generalizable vocabulary knowledge and strategies, students are constantly building their vocabulary as they progress through all strands of the program.