



## Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction

*By Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown, Linda Kucan*



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Exciting and engaging vocabulary instruction can set students on the path to a lifelong fascination with words. This book provides a research-based framework and practical strategies for vocabulary development with children from the earliest grades through high school. The authors emphasize instruction that offers rich information about words and their uses and enhances students' language comprehension and production. Teachers are guided in selecting words for instruction; developing student-friendly explanations of new words; creating meaningful learning activities; and getting students involved in thinking about, using, and noticing new words both within and outside the classroom. Many concrete examples, sample classroom dialogues, and exercises for teachers bring the material to life. Helpful appendices include suggestions for trade books that help children enlarge their vocabulary and/or have fun with different aspects of words.



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**Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction** By Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown, Linda Kucan **Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"Vocabulary is the bedrock supporting academic language proficiency. Without any doubt, speech-language pathologists recognize the critical importance of vocabulary learning for children and adolescents struggling with language and literacy learning. The challenge is how we can better support genuine vocabulary learning so that struggling students will be better positioned to meet the new reading and writing standards. This book offers speech-language pathologists a strong conceptual framework and evidence-based strategies for achieving the goal of functional vocabulary learning. The rich and detailed strategies are presented in a highly readable way. This accessibility allows the creative speech-language clinician to find many ideas that can easily be adapted into meaningful strategies for boosting the authentic word knowledge that most students with language learning disabilities urgently need for attaining academic language proficiency."--  
Elaine R. Silliman, PhD, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of South Florida

"This little book is a gem. It shows how teachers can teach word meanings so powerfully that students of all ages will be able to grasp an author's meaning or communicate their own more effectively. The book offers a well-organized and first-rate plan for teaching vocabulary, presented by a team of researchers with a genuine grasp of the practical."--Timothy Shanahan, PhD, Center for Literacy, University of Illinois at Chicago

"This book succinctly addresses the challenges of teaching and developing vocabulary, providing research-based, clearly spelled-out strategies and many, many rich examples. It gives teachers the tools they need to effectively increase students' vocabularies. Reflecting the authors' own expertise with words, the book is written clearly enough for undergraduates, yet has a level of depth that will lend new insights to even the most advanced student of language and literacy. This book should be required reading in teacher and reading specialist preparation programs and should be used in in-service programs with reading, language arts, and English teachers as well as with content area teachers. If the strategies and suggestions offered in this book were widely and intensely implemented, we would see significant increases in students' verbal abilities and reading comprehension scores."--John J. Pikulski, PhD, School of Education, University of Delaware

"*Bringing Words to Life* lives up to its title. It made me want to gather a group of kids immediately, so I could start putting these sensible, practical, novel, and intriguing ideas about building vocabulary into practice. Beck, McKeown, and Kucan show how much fun learning words and teaching words can be. Every early childhood and elementary teacher should have this book on their bedside table for inspirational reading."--Catherine E. Snow, PhD, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University

"All educators who are lovers of the English language will thoroughly enjoy and reap the benefits of this articulate book. The authors present a brilliant rationale for delivering lively and direct vocabulary instruction. They offer excellent advice on how to select rich words, present them to students, and help them revel in their usefulness!"--MaryAnne Rossbach, MEd, sixth-grade teacher, Sunrise Valley Elementary School, Reston, VA

"Creating Robust Vocabulary was developed as a companion volume to *Bringing Word to Life*....The two volumes together provide invaluable classroom resources for teachers....Beck, McKeown, and Kucan's indispensable scholarship....provides teachers with a coherent and compelling framework for changing the

landscape of vocabulary instruction in their classrooms."  
(*Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy* 2002-03-22)

#### About the Author

Isabel L. Beck, PhD, is Professor Emerita of Education in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. She has conducted research and published widely in the areas of decoding, vocabulary, and comprehension. Her contributions have been acknowledged by awards from the International Reading Association, the National Reading Conference, and the American Federation of Teachers, and she is an elected member of the National Academy of Education.

Margaret G. McKeown, PhD, is a Senior Scientist at the Learning Research and Development Center of the University of Pittsburgh. Her research on reading comprehension and vocabulary has been published extensively in outlets for both researcher and practitioner audiences. Dr. McKeown is a recipient of the Dissertation of the Year Award from the International Reading Association and a National Academy of Education Spencer Fellowship. Before her career in research, she taught elementary school.

Linda Kucan, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the Department of Instruction and Learning at the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. In addition to vocabulary instruction, her research interests include classroom talk about texts and the design of meaningful and motivating tasks to support comprehension of text.

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1. Rationale for Robust Vocabulary Instruction
  2. Choosing Words to Teach
  3. Introducing Vocabulary
  4. Developing Vocabulary in the Earliest Grades
  5. Developing Vocabulary in the Later Grades
  6. Making the Most of Natural Contexts
  7. Enriching the Verbal Environment
- Appendices: A. Text Talk Books and Vocabulary Words  
B. Books for a Lively Verbal Environment

#### Users Review

##### From reader reviews:

##### Aline Moran:

The book *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction* gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading through a book *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction* to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You may know everything if you like open and read a guide *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this book?

**Dennis Ross:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction guide written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written within good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still question Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction as good book not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one guide that can break don't assess book by its include, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

**Daryl Pena:**

The book untitled Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the woman idea with easy technique. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author provides you in the new era of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site in addition to order it. Have a nice examine.

**Edgar Villanueva:**

A number of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a publication. They are directly felt this when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose often the book Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading ability is developing when you like reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to wide open a book and learn it. Beside that the publication Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction can to be your friend when you're truly feel alone and confuse with the information must you're doing of their time.

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