

## Literacy How-To: Teaching Mortar Words



### Choosing Vocabulary Words to Teach

Always ask, "Why is this word worth teaching?" Evidence-based approaches to word selection share a common denominator—utility. [Our word selection](#) grid summarizes these strategies. Use it to ensure that you are teaching "brick" or content vocabulary, as well as "mortar" or utility words. Mortar words are key to developing syntax—the sentence-levels skills that we will present in depth next month. Visit Literacy How's Reading Wheel to learn more about teaching [vocabulary](#).

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