

Realia

Realia strategy is a way to help all learners especially struggling learners associate objects with vocabulary. The teacher presents objects when teaching vocabulary as a visual aid, so that students can have a better understanding of the new or reviewed vocabulary. The objects can also be things that the students already have knowledge to help build their background on what is being taught.

How to use

1. Objects

Prior to instruction the teacher gathers objects that will best be paired with the vocabulary in the lesson. The objects chosen should be manageable to carry and pass around to students to be able to provide hands on experiences. If objects are not available, the use of pictures can be a good alternative.

2. Pairing

As the teacher is presenting the vocabulary, they should present the chosen associated object and describe their connection. This initiates the students to start thinking of associating both vocabulary with object.

3. Review

After the teacher has completed the presenting the realia with new vocabulary, they may continue to use the objects to review. Part of reviewing can be students being shown the objects and they verbally say the vocabulary word associated with it. This will reinforce the new connections the students have developed and help struggling students to continue to work on language.

When to use

Some of the opportunities when using Realia would be:

- When exposing students to a new vocabulary words
- Before the class reads a book, this allows for preexposure of pictures and vocabulary that may be in the story.
- To help struggling students that are not learning the vocabulary words in a lesson
- When a lesson needs a hands-on approach to help students grasp the information
- When wanting to reinforce student knowledge on a topic

Variations

Show and Tell

Another way for students to benefit from realia is by bringing objects from home that they have knowledge about. This will help students strengthen their background knowledge and have students continue to develop verbal communication. This will also provide an opportunity for students to share vocabulary in their native language if different from English. Other good ideas for the student's objects could be culture based.

Creating Realia

Students could use things that they have learned to create objects such as cutting and coloring and presenting to the class. This could help students use creativeness and art to improve writing, reading, and language strengthening.