Most English language educators understand the critical need for English learners to acquire academic language, the dimension of language that is not automatically developed but must be taught. Direct instruction in academic language and grammar helps English learners develop the high levels of communicative competence they need for success in school and life.

Grammar Gallery was designed specifically to support language education—which includes academic vocabulary instruction—that is meaningful, productive, and purpose driven. Altogether, Grammar Gallery’s five language levels include more than 300 language practice resources and 300 readings to give students numerous opportunities to develop, refine, and use academic language. The program’s resources and readings feature the academic vocabulary students need for academic success.

Identifying and Teaching Academic Vocabulary

Grammar Gallery includes a listing of target vocabulary for each language level (1-5). In identifying the target vocabulary, the program authors consulted a number of sources, including published lists of frequently used words (Kress, 2008; Concise Oxford English Dictionary, 2008; Fry & Kress, 2006), Bloom’s taxonomy of verbs (Anderson & Krathwohl, 2001), academic vocabulary lists (see, for example, Coxhead, 2000), and a cross-section of state and national standards, including the Common Core State Standards. Levels 1-2 of Grammar Gallery generally integrate K-6 academic vocabulary. Levels 3-5 integrate 2-12 academic vocabulary.

There are many techniques and approaches to academic language instruction, but they all have in common the assumption that in order for students to develop a deep and full understanding of academic vocabulary, they must be engaged in instruction and practice activities that enable them to see the words used in multiple contexts. Students must also have multiple opportunities to practice using the words. Grammar Gallery provides both the exposure to and practice with academic vocabulary.

On the following pages are examples of ways Grammar Gallery can be used to introduce, model, and give students practice with academic vocabulary. These examples focus on the word culture, which is included in the Level 4 Exploration & Travel topic.
Target Vocabulary List

EXPLORATION & TRAVEL

Nouns
- hike, discovery, safari, voyage, explorer, expedition, astronaut, space, passport, souvenir, custom, culture

Specialized Prepositions
- until, with, for, except, since, from...to, from...until, despite

Adverb Clauses
- e.g., You can’t travel outside your home country unless you have a passport.

Phrasal Verbs
- call off, put away, check out, bring back, think through, look into, get back from, turn off

Present Perfect Progressive
- to examine, to research, to try, to describe, to shop, to identify, to explore, to classify

Past Perfect
- to go, to explain, to list, to get

Past Perfect Progressive
- to evaluate, to assess, to collect, to identify

Gerunds
- seeing, losing, shopping, studying

 Reflexive Pronouns
- myself, yourself, himself, herself

Indefinite Pronouns
- somebody, anybody, nobody

Culture is a target noun in Level 4 of Grammar Gallery, but it is used throughout all 10 resources associated with this topic. The word culture, like many other words in Grammar Gallery, is included in Coxhead’s Academic Word List. The words on this list frequently appear in academic textbooks and on standardized tests.

Overview Charts

There are 10 Overview Charts for each topic, providing exposure to academic vocabulary in multiple contexts. Each sentence is accompanied by a large, full-color visual.
Sentence Frames, Practice Sheets, and Extension Activities

The Sentence Frames and Practice Sheets, in addition to the application and extension activities, give students multiple opportunities for meaningful and productive practice of academic vocabulary.

Cindy has not used her ___________ since ___________.

Dr. Quinn studied Japanese ___________ from ___________.

I go hiking whenever I am in ___________.

You need a passport when you are ___________.

The movie about space interests me ___________.

You won’t learn about other cultures ___________ unless you study them.
The Reading Gallery texts integrate the academic vocabulary in the Overview Charts, Sentence Frames, Practice Sheets, and application and extension activities. In these samples, students encounter the word culture used in different genres of authentic text. In this way, students must also take into account the multiple ways words can be used.
Grammar Gallery ... A Treasure Chest of Academic Language

Grammar Gallery is a treasure chest of academic vocabulary, including vocabulary that spans all parts of speech and all subject areas. The samples below show one way the program incorporates the verbs analyze, assess, and predict, words that are included in Coxhead’s Academic Word List.

Several professionals will have analyzed this primary source before it is exhibited.

Economists had been predicting that the stock market would rebound, but their current outlook is less optimistic.

Scientists have been assessing the effects of air pollution.

By using academic vocabulary as the vehicle to introduce, review, and reinforce language functions and grammatical forms, Grammar Gallery enables students to master the rules of English grammar, build their vocabulary, and develop academic language proficiency.

Selected References

If you’re not already using Grammar Gallery, see for yourself how the program can help your students master the academic vocabulary so critical for success in school. All materials are available online. You can print the materials, project them on a screen, or have students access them on a computer or an iPad. Visit www.grammargallery.org to learn more about the nation’s premier grammar program. We offer free trials for educators!