

# 5 Principles for Teaching Content to English Learners

Using the research of numerous language experts, Pearson, led by Dr. Jim Cummins, has developed an instructional framework incorporating five essential principles for teaching content to English learners.

## 1 Identify and Communicate Content and Language Objectives

*Present content objectives.*

- Simplify language, repeat, and paraphrase.
- Avoid idioms and check for understanding.

*Present language objectives.*

- Focus on key content vocabulary and academic vocabulary.
- Focus on language form and function (essential to lesson).

## 2 Provide Appropriate Preteaching

*Preteach the lesson's elements.*

- Activate prior knowledge and build background.
- Preview the text and set a purpose for reading.

## 3 Provide Comprehensible Input

*Make oral content comprehensible by providing support.*

- Use visuals and graphic organizers.
- Model and demonstrate.
- Use summaries.
- Use audio and audiovisual aids.

## 4 Enable Language Production

*Create opportunities for oral practice.*

- **Listening and Speaking** Model language and allow wait time for responses.
- **Reading and Writing** Provide support and scaffolding.
- **Increasing Interaction** Assign collaborative tasks with peers.

## 5 Assess for Content and Language Understanding

*Monitor progress and reteach when necessary.*

- **Diagnostic Assessment** Determine placement.
- **Formative Assessment** Check comprehension on an ongoing basis.
- **Summative Assessments** Use alternative assessments, such as projects and portfolios.
- **Accommodations** Allow extra time; use bilingual dictionaries.