Vocabulary
Tools and Strategies

Why Teach Vocabulary

- Vocabulary deficits are a major cause of problems with reading comprehension

- Students with low SES have a fraction of the vocabulary of those with higher SES
  - Entering kindergarten with half the vocabulary of a high SES student, and adding new words at a much slower rate.

- Context is not enough – explicit instruction of vocabulary is also needed

How to Introduce Vocabulary

- Limit number: 5-20 words at a time

- Provide student-friendly definitions

- Provide context clue sentences

- Create activities that will engage students in dealing with the words' meaning
  - Writing which connects to personal experiences
  - Graphic organizers, thinking activities, and games

- Use multiple strategies, repeated exposures
  12 exposures enough for most students, but others require 20 or more

Some Tools and Strategies

- Vocabulary Cartoons

- LINCS Index Cards

- Synonym/Antonym Fill-in-the-blank

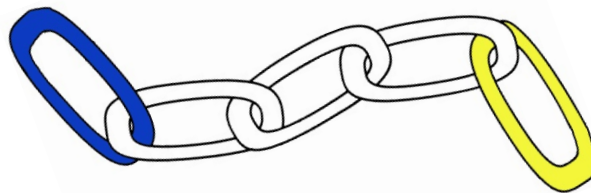- Frayer Model

- And many more!

Vocabulary Cartoons

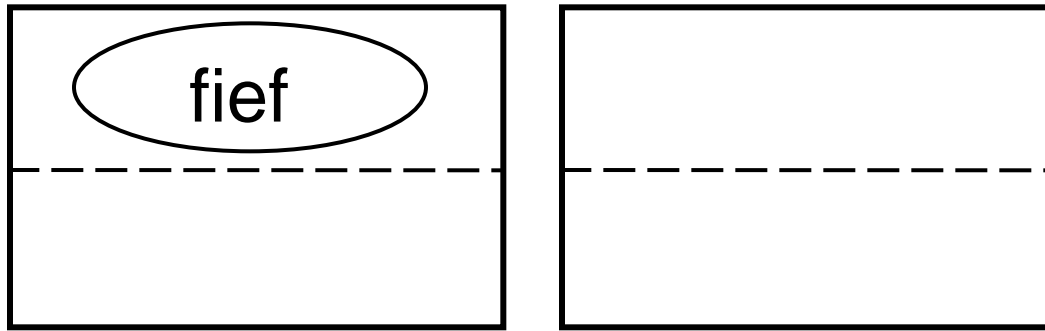# LINCS Vocabulary Strategy
(Ellis, 2000)

Students create flash cards
with their own word-sound and
picture links

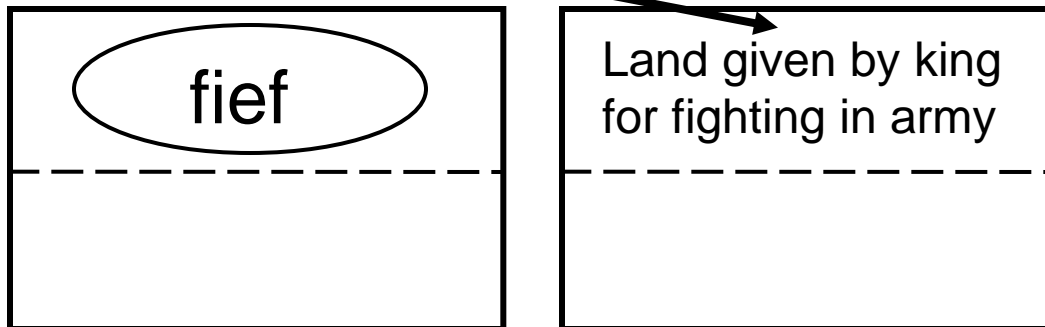Word ➜ Reminding Word ➜ Reminding Story ➜ Picture ➜ Definition

Creating LINCS Study Cards

1. Draw a line across the middle of both sides of an index card.

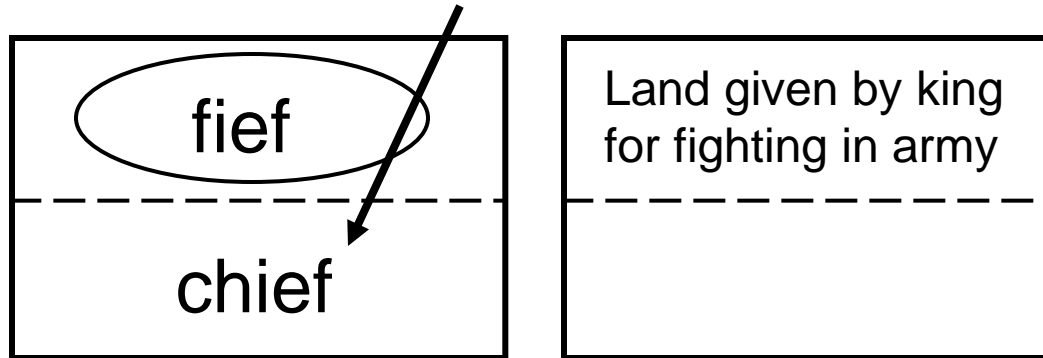2. Write the word on the top half of one side. Then circle it.

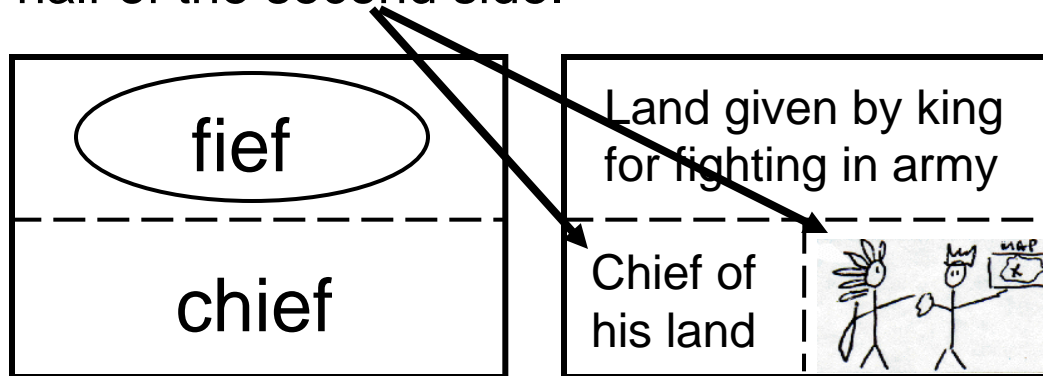3. Write the parts of the definition you need to remember on the top of the other side.

Land given by king for fighting in army

Creating LINCS Study Cards *(cont.)*

4. Write the Reminding Word on the bottom of the first side.

fief	Land given by king for fighting in army
chief	

5. Write the LINCing Story and draw the LINCing picture on the bottom half of the second side.

fief	Land given by king for fighting in army
chief	Chief of his land

LINCS Study Cards – More examples
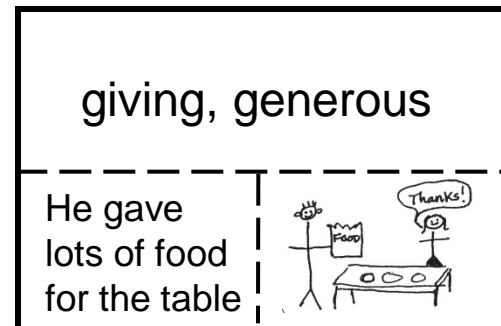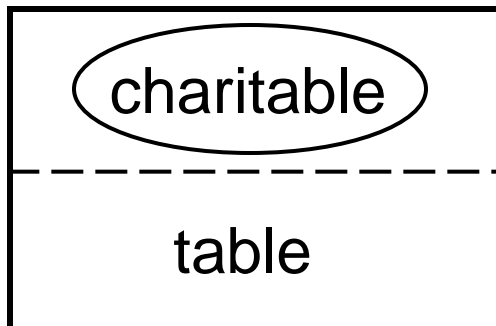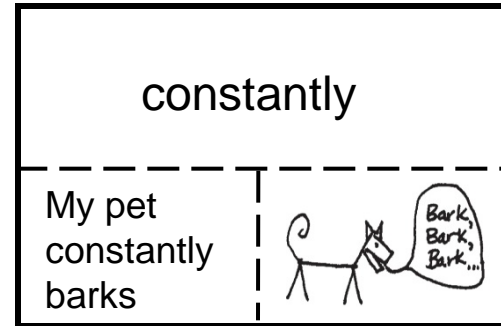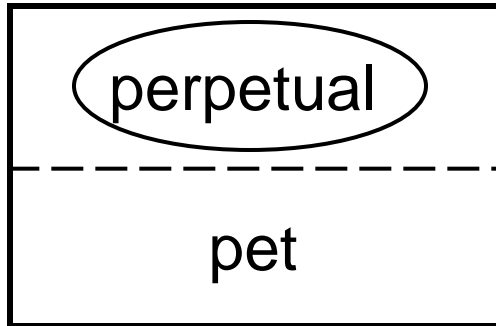
Synonym/Antonym
Fill-in-the-Blanks

Word	Antonym	Synonym
domestic	for_ign	_____
prosperity	p_v_rty	_____
revenue	p_ym_nts	_____
rural	urb_n	_____
subsequent	prev_ous	_____
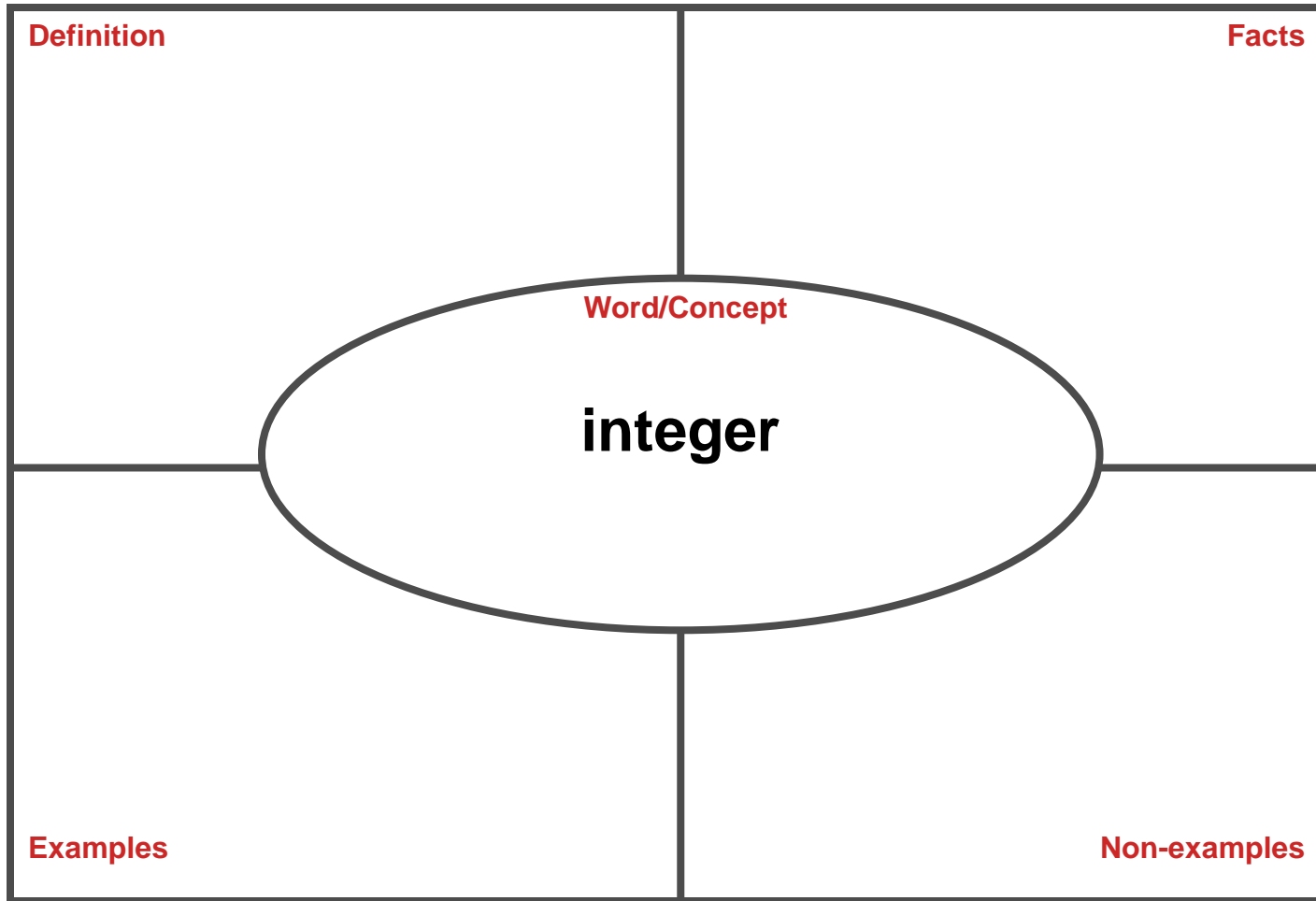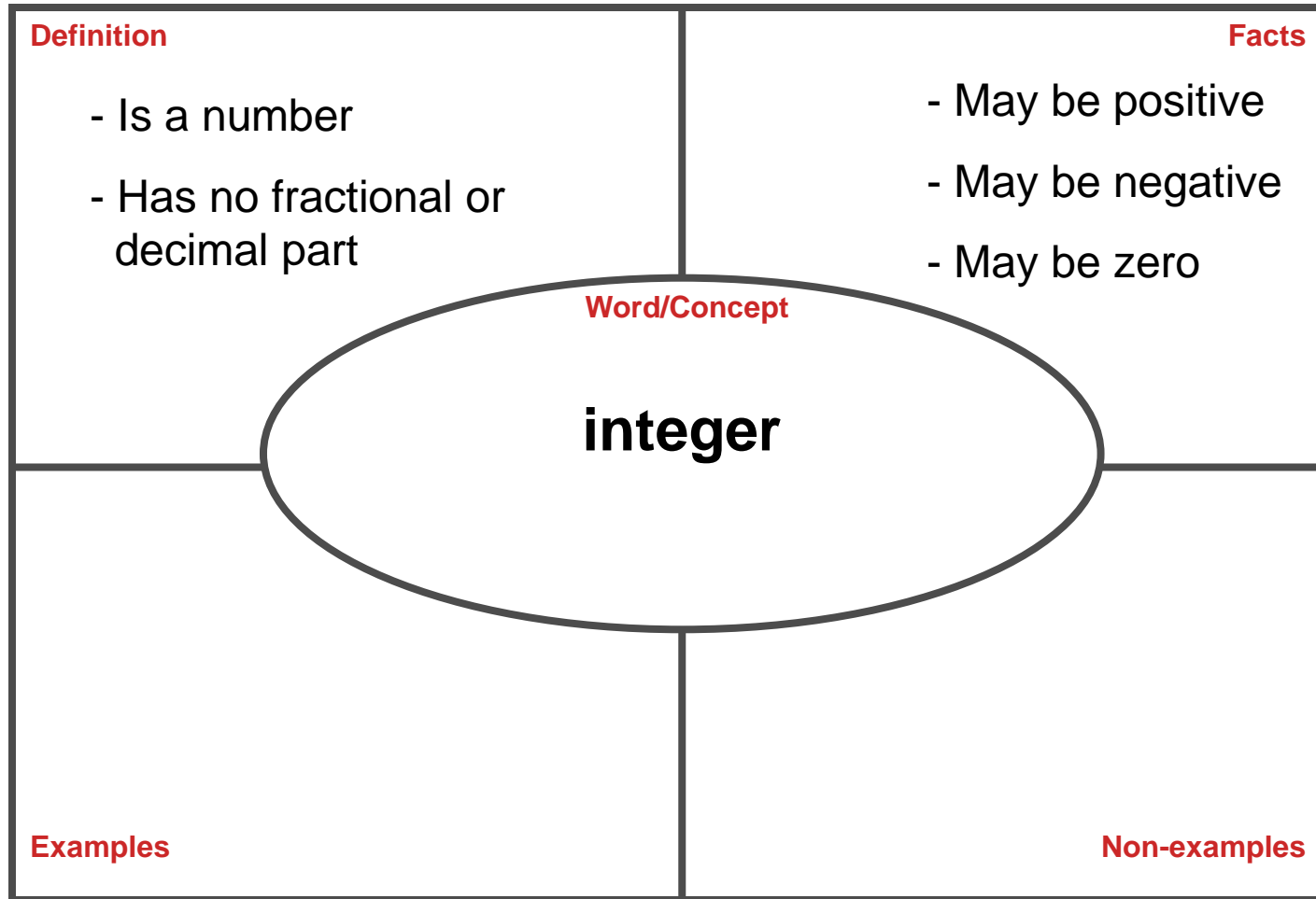
Frayer Model

Definition	Facts

Word/Concept

integer

Examples	Non-examples

Frayer Model

- Is a number

- Has no fractional or decimal part

- May be positive

- May be negative

- May be zero

Word/Concept

integer

Frayer Model

- Is a number

- Has no fractional or decimal part

- May be positive

- May be negative

- May be zero

Word/Concept

integer

0

-4

781

0.2

$\sqrt{3}$ -1.3

π 2/3

References

Allen, J. (1999). Words, Words, Words: Teaching Vocabulary in Grades 4-12. Portland, Maine: Steinhouse Publications. www.steinhouse.com ISBN: 1-57110-085-7

Beck, I.,McKeown, M.,Kucan, L. (2002). Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction. NY: Guilford Press

Ellis, E. S. (2000). The LINCS Vocabulary Strategy. Lawrence, Kansas: Edge Enterprises, Inc.

www.adlit.org Adolescent Literacy website