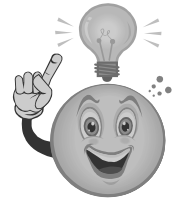


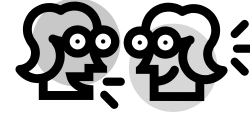


## 3 TIERS OF VOCABULARY WORDS



### ALL WORDS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

**TIER 1** (German origin)  
**EASY TO TEACH; CONCRETE**



**Everyday, social, slang, basic, common, frequent.**

About 8,000 word families.

These include the first 2,000 most used words. (Look on internet “ESL Word Lists”)

*Ex. Book, afraid, sad, mad, same, blue, dog*

**TIER 2** (French origin)  
**SPEND MOST OF THE TIME TEACHING THESE TYPES OF WORDS.**

**Standard English, school, professional; characteristic of mature language users.**

More abstract than Tier 1 words: *Ex. estimate, average, seldom*

Used in many contexts; multiple meanings, connect to other words and concepts.

Important and useful throughout life.

Increases learners’ functional vocabulary.

Provides the most powerful change in the learning.

About 7,000 word families.

*Types:*

*More precise synonyms of Tier 1 words: Ex. terror, sorry, anger, alike*

*Multiple meanings: Ex. table, table of contents, table in math or science*

*All connecting phrases: Ex. between, combine, however, in addition to*

*Idioms: Ex. no matter what, a piece of cake*

*2-word verbs: Ex. put out, put upon*

*Used in many contexts: Ex. chemicals, industrial, specialized, difference*

**TIER 3** (Greek and Latin origin)  
**NEED EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION WITHIN THE SUBJECT AREA.**

**Academic, sophisticated, professional, specific needs.**

Low frequency, limited to specific subject areas.

Often multi-syllabic.

The remaining 400,000 words.

*Ex. Trepidation (Latin, trepidus)*

*Melancholy (Greek, melas – black + chole – bile)*

*Infuriated (Latin, in furia, rage)*

*Equivalent (Latin, aequus – equal + valere – be strong)*

