

Activate PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

A. ASK BEFORE EXPLAINING

1. Before you start a new lesson, simply ask the class:
What do you know about [topic]?
2. Have students brainstorm for a few minutes individually first, and then in pairs or as a class.

B. FIRST SHOW A PICTURE

Show a picture that captures some of the content students will learn. Ask:
What do you see?

C. PRE-POST TEST

1. Identify information students will learn, or problems students will solve by the end of the class.
2. Compose a simple test with 1-3 items. For example:
 - Dictate two statements. Ask students if they agree/disagree.
 - Dictate open-ended questions about the content you will teach.
 - Write a grammatically incorrect sentence on the board. Ask students is it is correct or not.
3. Don't discuss students' answers. Tell them to put their answers away until later.
4. At the end of class, administer the test again. Ask students if their answers had changed and why.

E. PRE-POST READING

1. Before reading, students react to several true or false statement about the reading.
2. After reading have students return to their initial responses. What do they think now? Why? Where did they find the information?

Before		What do you think?	After	
Agree	Disagree		Agree	Disagree
		1. True/False Statement		
		2. True/False Statement		
		3. True/False Statement		

E. PRE-POST: KEY TERMS

1. Before any instruction give students key terms for the new lesson.
2. In pairs have students discuss the terms and answer simple questions to the best of their knowledge.
Example: Reading on national holidays:

What is [holiday] about? When is it? How do people celebrate it?

F. VOCABULARY: LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE

Word	Level of Knowledge		
	1: Good Friend I know the meaning and can use it in a sentence.	2: Acquaintance I have heard it before, but I cannot explain it.	3: Stranger I have not heard it before. I have no idea what it means.

Write a sentence with a word you know well. (Good friend)

Adapted from **Anna DiPerna's** wonderful SABES workshop on working with students with language-based learning disabilities.