What’s Different for Vocabulary in Mathematics?

• Depth is key in learning the meaning of words
• Vocabulary “Front Loading” not very effective.
• Everyday vs. Academic vocabulary in Math – Mathematics requires specific words
• A False cognate in mathematics, in “quotidian” vs. Academic language

Everyday vs. Academic Vocabulary in Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Everyday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Guess</td>
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• What does a word mean in mathematics?
• How can we help students learn the mathematical meaning?
Strategies We Know Don’t Work

• Look the word up in the dictionary (online or otherwise).
• Just use the context!
• Skip it and you’ll learn it later on.

More Strategies to Use Monday Morning

• **Omit** the target word (a new term for your students) from a sentence and then consider what the word might fit in the mathematical sentence.
• Mathematics **sentence walls**, in addition to a word wall. Students are the best sources, but the curricular materials may also be useful. “Our playground’s grass area is rectangular and about 50 square meters in size.”
• Finding **root/history** of the word (e.g., triangle, tricycle, tripod, trilogy).
• Provide as many mathematical **Objects** as possible (for example, providing 3 D models of shapes). Have students experiment with folding models.
• Be consistent in your use of **terms**. Do the terms and syntax in your curricular, instructional, assessment, and standards match?