

## Word Banks

English language learners need to develop academic language in order to be successful in the content-area classroom. One way to help increase an English learner's academic vocabulary is to create a word bank. A word bank can be created by the teacher at the beginning of a unit of study or can be co-created with students during a unit. Word banks can be whole-class (e.g., word walls, words in a can) or individualized (e.g., file folders).

A word bank is only effective if students access it regularly. Encourage students to consult the word bank when they need to find a word and to add or modify words as appropriate.

Variations on word banks:

- Maintain a **word wall** for a content area (or unit of study) with target vocabulary (visual supports such as pictures or sketches help provide context for word meaning).
- Individual vocabulary **file folders** for students (take a manila folder for each student and use the inside pages to record words).
- Write target words on wooden sticks and maintain **words in a can**. You can call on students at various times to demonstrate comprehension, give examples, sentences, or synonyms for your target words.

### EXAMPLE WORD WALL FOR MATH OPERATIONS

(Each operation would have a separate piece of paper on display in the classroom):

<b>+</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>÷</b>
add plus addition and how many in all? altogether	subtract minus subtraction how many more? how many left? what is the difference?	multiply times multiplication groups how many in all? altogether	divide share equally division into
<b>SUM</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>PRODUCT</b>	<b>QUOTIENT</b>