

Visual Vocabulary: Engage Students with Critical Thinking Instead of Memorization

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Disclosure Statement

- Beth Lawrence and Deena Seifert are speech-language pathologists and co-founders of Communication Apptitude, Inc. They created *InferCabulary* and *WordQuations*.
- Communication Apptitude, Inc. benefits financially from sales of these products.

Welcome!

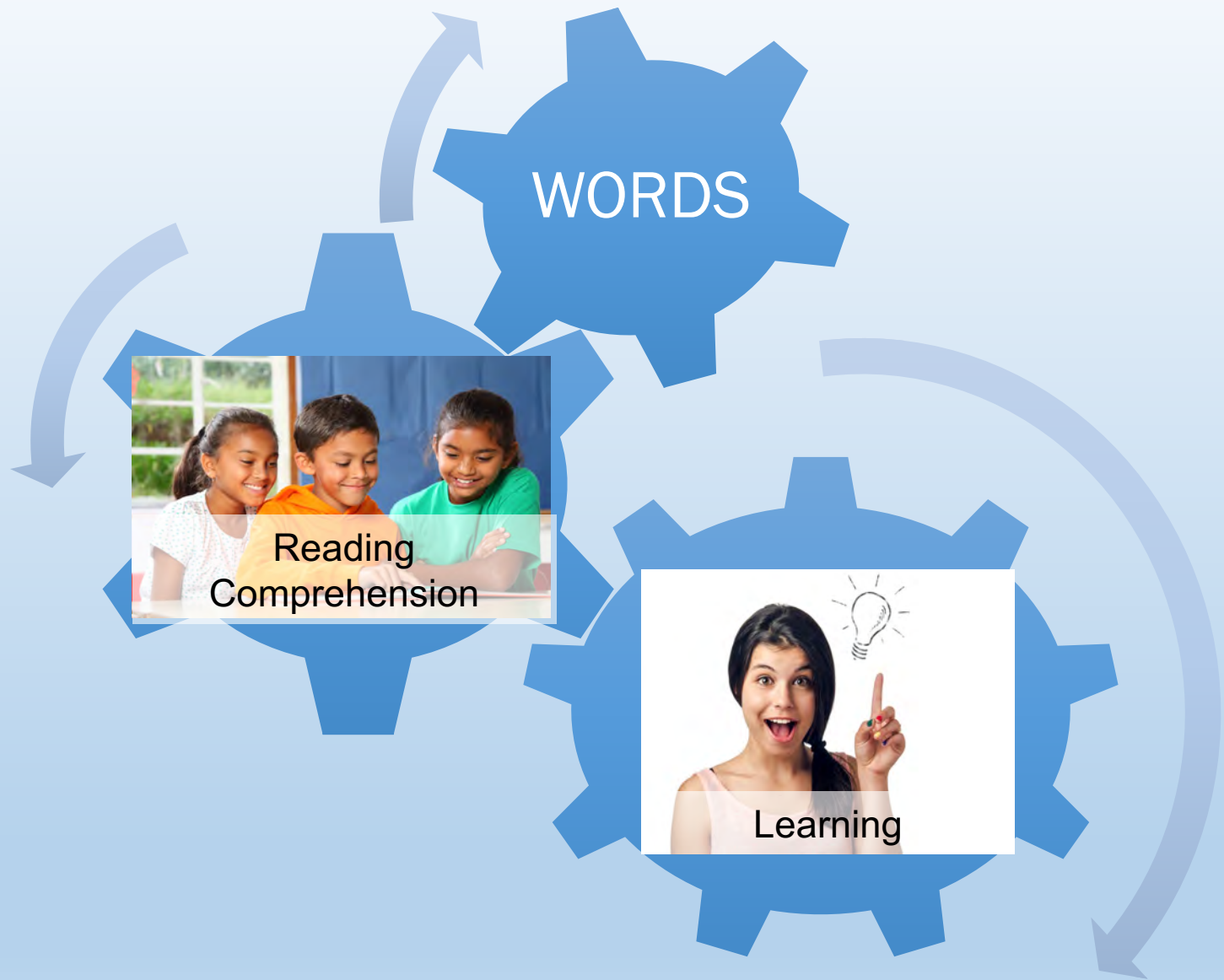


Participants will:

- Describe best practice vocabulary instruction
- Demonstrate understanding of Semantic Reasoning
- Create InferCabulary and WordQuations lessons

Importance of Vocabulary

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Silverman & Hantraft, 2015



Students who enter kindergarten
with low vocabulary



At risk traditional methods



Perform poorly academically

Loftus et al., 2010

50,000

For academic
success,
12th graders need to
know



Proctor, Silverman, Harring, & Montecillo, 2012



80,000

High-achieving
12th graders know

(only 4% of students)

Eide, 2011

Why is vocabulary important?

- 2/3 of students in the U.S. struggle with **reading comprehension** and **vocabulary** is the building block for comprehension.
- Students need to understand **95-98%** of the words in a given text independently to comprehend text.*
- It's one of the 5 pillars of reading.**

*Hu & Nation, 2000

**Reading First (Title I, Part B, Subpart 1), 2000 National Reading Panel



Breadth vs. Depth



BREADTH

number of lexical entries
(predicts decoding)
Ouellette & Beers, 2010

DEPTH

semantic
representations for
each known word

(predicts
comprehension)

Walley, Metsala, &
Garlock, 2003

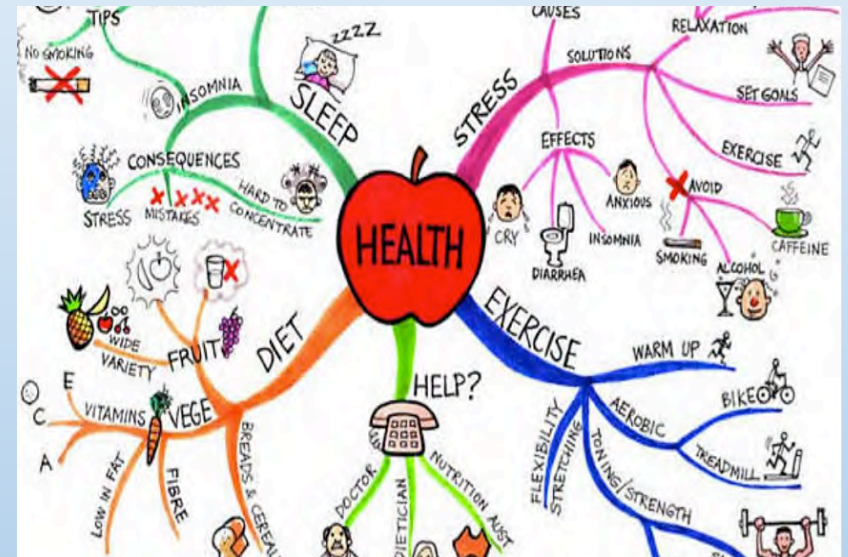
Two Phases

Fast Mapping (Breadth)



A child's ability to learn a new word or concept with minimal exposure to it

Extended Mapping (Depth)

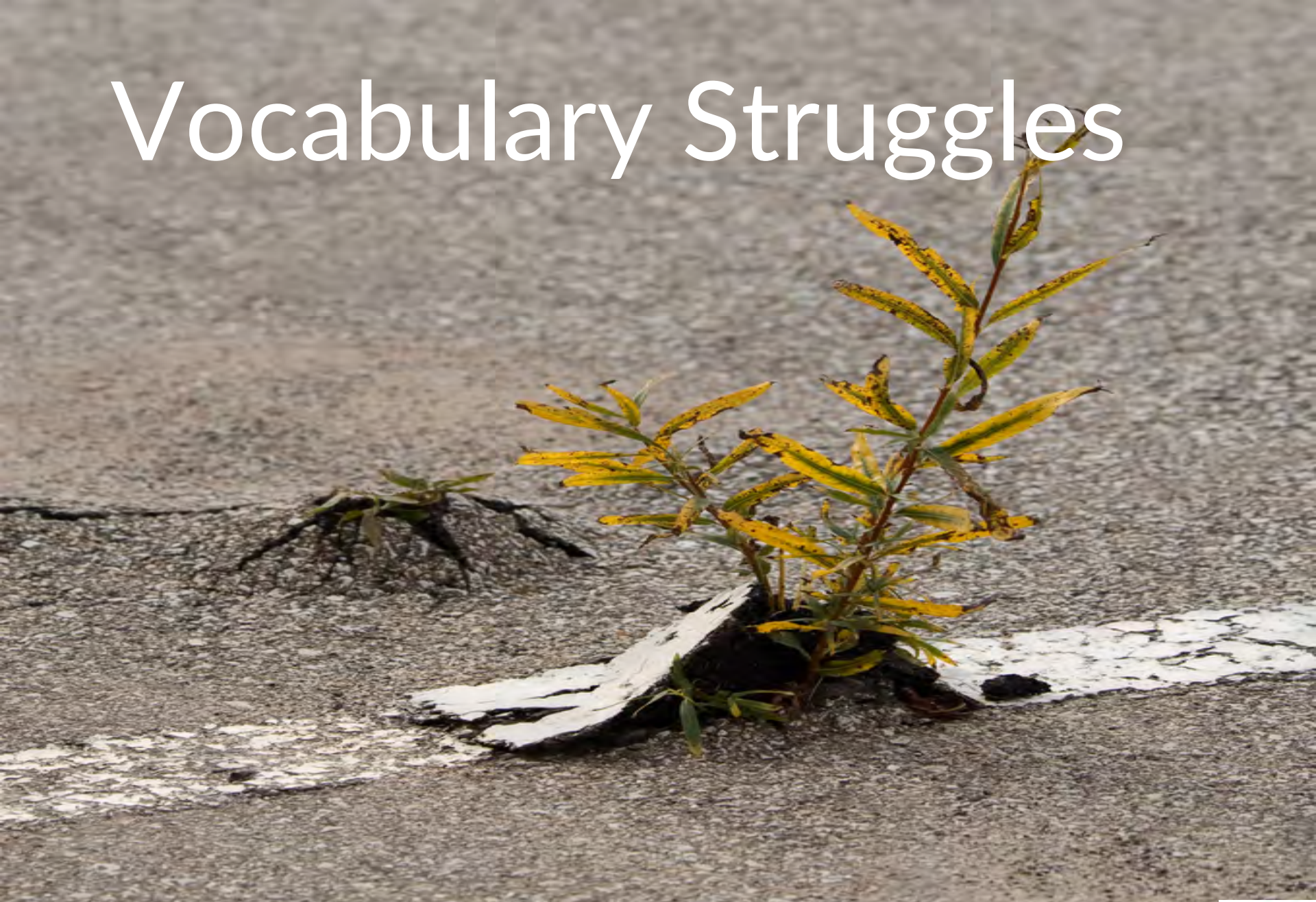


1,600 WORDS

the number of words—at any given time—an elementary/middle school student is in process of **learning** “**deeply**”

Carey & Bartlett, 1978

Vocabulary Struggles





The Problem

Using language to
teach language
to students who
struggle with
language...

Why do kids struggle?

- Kids are **not reading as much** or have reading disabilities
- Not everyone is using instruction that incorporates **best practices**
- Students have **limited exposures** to words in a variety of contexts
- Learning words is a **neurological process**
- Language disorders/learning disabilities





BEST



PRACTICE

Vocabulary Instruction Must Emphasize

1. Active engagement
2. Multiple contexts
3. Using visuals
4. Morphology (parts of words)
5. Semantics (graphic organizers)
6. Kinesthetic (drama)
7. Repetition

Beck & McKeown, 2013



Two Vocabulary Methods

InferCabulary®	WordQuations®
nouns and adjectives	verbs
uses Semantic Reasoning	formula for determining subtle meanings of verb synonyms
higher order vocabulary skills	character motivation and verb choices in writing

WordQuations®

Using features of verbs to
understand verb synonyms

Inspiration For WordQuations



Examples of glance from *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

“Her mother shook her head quickly, and glanced at the open window covered only by the sheer curtain. Annemarie understood.”

“Another man arrived: an old man, bearded. Quietly he went to the living room and sat down, saying nothing to the others, who only glanced at him.”

“Annemarie did instantly as she was told. The basket. The packet, at the bottom. She covered it with a napkin. Then some wrapped cheese. An apple. She glanced around the kitchen saw some bread and added that. The basket was full.”

WordQuations®

Break down the synonym into an equation

glance =

Base word + speed + degree + emotion
or motive

look + quickly + short +
curious
hurried
unimportant

Base Word

+

Speed

+

Time

+

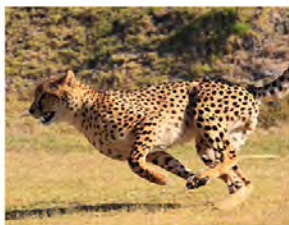
Emotion

=

Synonym



Look



quickly



short



curious

To look quickly at
something because
you are curious

Play
Video

glance

Words

Now for a little practice



WordQuations®

Base Word	Speed	Quality	Motive \ Emotion	Synonym
walk	slowly	gently powerfully	to explore Feeling relaxed	meander
talk	quickly	Loudly quietly	worried confused oblivious	babble
touch	slowly	gently powerfully	to comfort show love greet	embrace
look	quickly	short	anger	flash

WordQuations®

Quantity

Time

Heaviness

Volume

Intensity

Motive

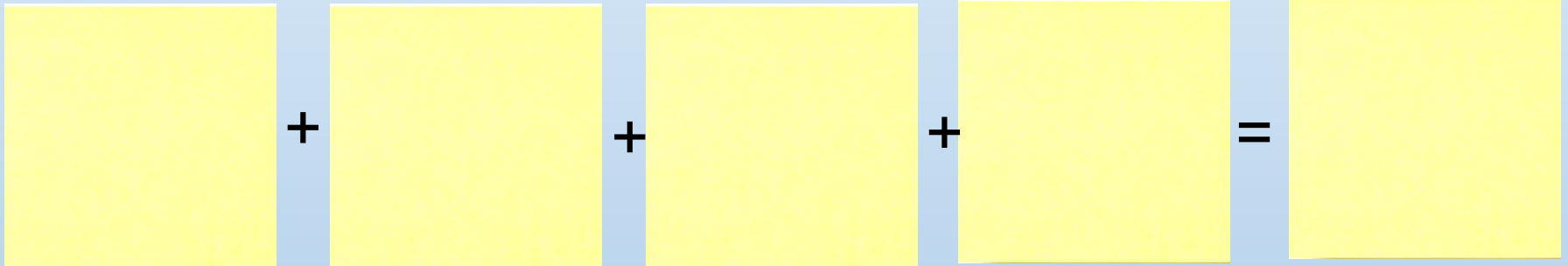
or

Emotion

Base Word

Speed

Synonym



Low tech method using sticky notes or index cards



Using *Semantic Reasoning* Skills to Learn Word Meanings

Typical Dictionary Definition

prudent

[prood-nt]

adjective

Wise or judicious in practical affairs;
sagacious; discreet or circumspect; sober

Process: Rote memorization of 11th grade words in
definition to “learn” a 6th grade word

Results: Students forget definition after test

Visuals with Verbal



The Inspiration for InferCabulary®

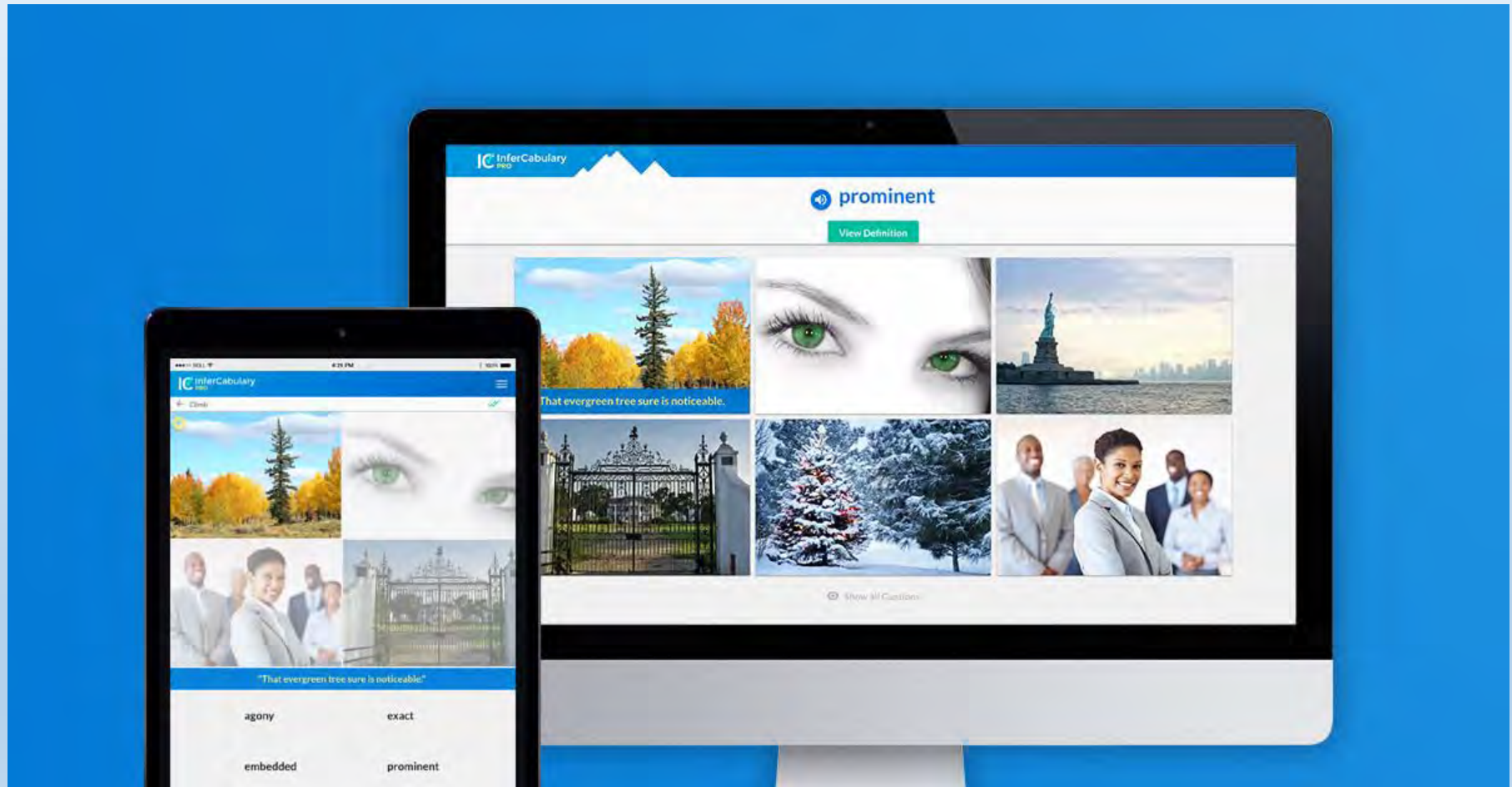


InferCabulary® Method

We devised InferCabulary® as a method
to **avoid using language**
(the students' primary weakness)
as the **initial method**
to teach vocabulary meaning
for nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

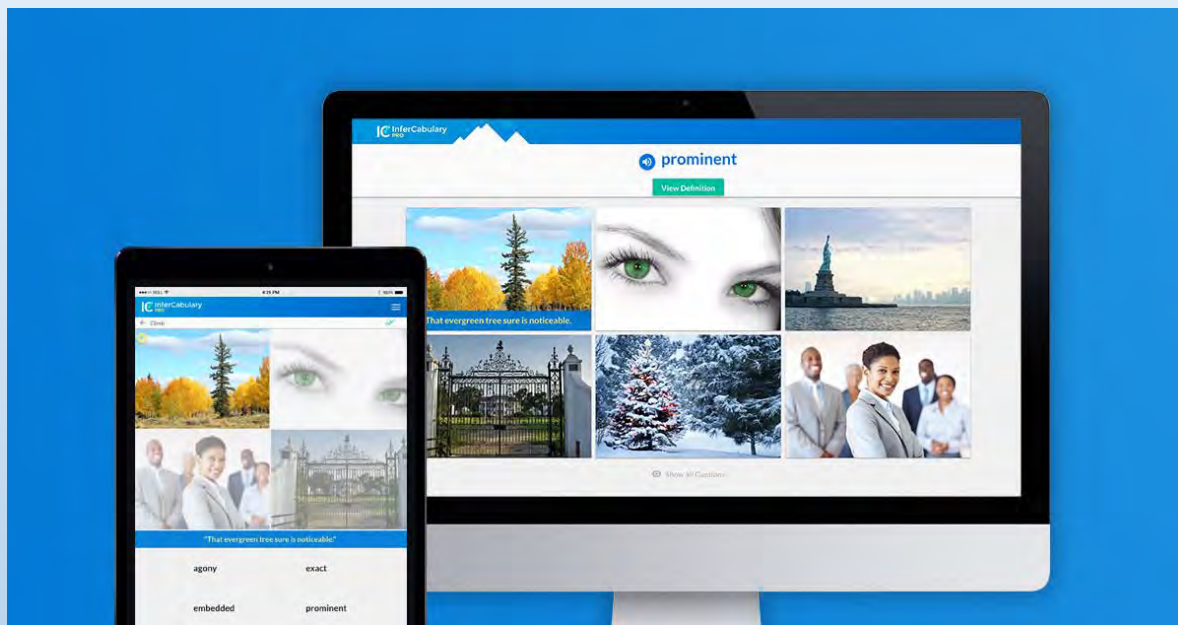
InferCabulary®

Demonstration



Copies of this presentation, handouts and research
are available on

InferCabulary.com



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