Instructional level- level of academic engagement in which instruction is comfortably matched to what an individual is able to grasp

Independent level- level of academic engagement in which an individual works independently without the need of instructional support

Word consciousness- an attitude of curiosity and attention to words critical for vocabulary development

Homonyms- words that share the same spelling but have different meanings

Affixes- suffix or prefix attached to a base word, stem or root

Vowel markers- silent letter used to indicate the sound of the vowel

Diphthongs- complex speech sound beginning with one vowel sound and moving to another within the same syllable

Blind sorts- a picture or word sort done with a partner in which students who are responsible for sorting cannot see the word

Phonics readers- beginning reading books written with controlled vocabulary that contain recurring phonics elements