DEFINING A CONCEPT

Basic Skills and Tools to Teach Subject Contents in English

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Polysemy in different specialization fields, e.g. 'native'

Definition beyond the dictionary

WHY?
BATTERY
BATTERY
STEPS: WRAP-UP

1. Hypothetical story / anecdote
2. Rhetorical question to introduce concept
3. Definition repeated
4. Examples to clarify meaning
5. Definition of other (unknown?) terms
6. Checking for understanding
7. Summary of explanation
8. (Checking for understanding)
TASK 1
SIGNPOSTING: USE

‘Okay’

‘So’
SIGNPOSTING: USE

‘Okay’
- Kickstart
- Topic shifting
- Checking for understanding

‘So’
- Result
- Summary
- Conclusion
FILLERS
DANGER!!!
FILLERS???
FILLERS: EXAMPLES

- Uh
- And
- Like
- You know
- I mean
- You know what I mean
- For instance
- For example
- And so on (and so forth)
- Ok
- So
- Sort of
- ...

...
EXTENDING A DEFINITION

• An enumeration of characteristics or features
• A discussion of different types or kinds
• A description of the structure or components
• Examples
• A description of how something is made
• A discussion of how something works or is carried out
• A description of applications
• A discussion of the history or evolution of the concept, including its future potential
• A comparison/contrast with a similar concept
• Listing
• Chronological order
• Classification (organization by category)
• Spatial order
“Today, I’m going to define ‘Battery’”
• Rhetorical question
• A question meant to elicit a response from the audience
• Hypothetical situation or short anecdote
• An example
• An opening statement that places the concept in a context
• Historical background
• A picture
• Music or other sounds
• A quote, a poem or a saying
• ...
• ...
TASK 5
FORMAL DEFINITIONS: STRUCTURE

01 The term

02 The class in which the term belongs

03 The characteristics that distinguish it from other terms in the class
A membrane is a thin wall which allows certain types of substances to pass through.

term | class | distinguishing characteristics
TASK 7 + ‘NOTICE THAT’
REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSES AKA PARTICIPLE CLAUSES

• Two types:
  1. Active
  2. Passive
TASK 8 & 9
ONCE WE HAVE THE MAIN DEFINITION...

• Defining additional terms as shortly as possible: How?
  1. Synonym
  2. Paraphrase
  3. Example
  4. Acronym
TASK 10
LET ME (LEMME)

TALK TO YOURSELF

ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE
TASK 12
TASKS 11 & 13
INTONATION

‘NOUN + noun Vs Adjective + ‘NOUN