

Social Language—First Know the Words

Our adolescent students with language deficits are usually left out of conversations that are fast-paced, filled with innuendoes, laced with sarcasm, and ripe with subtle plays on words. Before our students can understand these conversations (at the very least), they need to learn their vocabulary. This metalinguistic instruction is the first step toward building students' social self-confidence. Try linking the new vocabulary below with the associated words students may already know. Then have the student explain the meaning of the new word in the sentence provided. Linking a new concept to prior knowledge speeds the learning process.

| NEW WORD | DEFINITION | SYNONYMS (prior knowledge) | EXPLAIN IN A SENTENCE |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Acceptance | something you find favorable | approval, agreement, reception | Their acceptance of my ideas was rewarding. |
| Relationship | how you get along with other people | connection | My relationship with my best friend is built on respect. |
| Nurture | help to grow and thrive | thrive, foster | Mothers nurture their babies to help them become independent. |
| Retort | snappy comeback | reply, answer, remark (with sarcasm or wit) | Neither the principal nor the teacher appreciated her retort. |
| Impatient | anxious to do something | anxious, restless | Why are you so impatient to see your cousins? |
| Sarcasm | message with a different meaning | ridicule, criticism, irony, wickedness | I didn't notice the sarcasm in her voice. |
| Mock | cruelly mimic | mimic, imitate | Abe mocks Jonathan behind his back. |
| Ridicule | cruelly criticize | taunt, tease, deride, criticize, disrespect | Ridicule is not a good form of feedback. |
| Hostility | confrontation as with an enemy | confrontation, hatred | Jean shows hostility toward her parents and grandparents. |

Click on [FREE Downloads at linguisticsystems.com](https://linguisticsystems.com) to print this page.