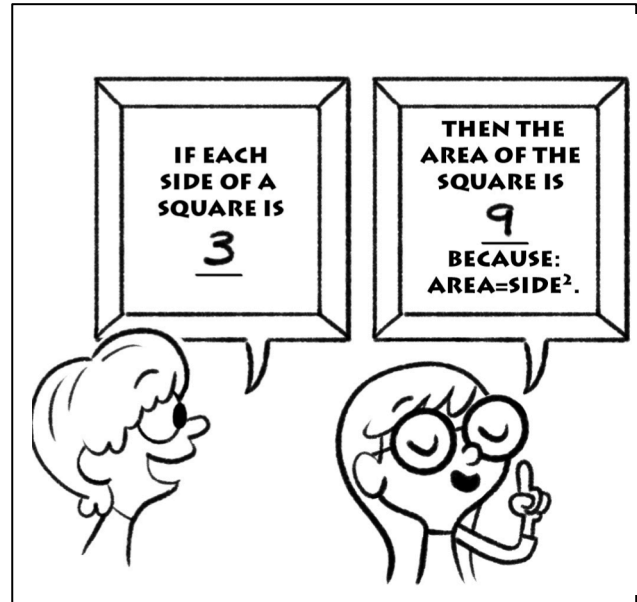


5 Language Frames

Language frames (Bunch et al, 2003; Dutro & Kinsella, 2010; Fisher & Frey, 2008; Jacobson, Johnson & Lapp, 2001; Kress, 2008) are effective tools for developing and scaffolding academic language functions and vocabulary for language learners, and can be used at each level of language development to guide learners toward more effective and sophisticated language.

Language frames are partially constructed cloze statements (statements with missing words/phrases to complete) that highlight the language and syntax needed for a particular language purpose. Teachers can create frames for whatever language they are teaching and use them to provide learners with practice with the language structures while they develop and use language for their own purposes. Frames can be constructed to use the key signal words that indicate transitions and relationships in academic writing, to show such concepts as sequence, change of direction, illustration, cause or result, special relationships, conclusion, inexactness, or emphasis. They can thus be tailored to support learners in using the key language and structures of each content area.



Language Frames for SPEAKING				
Topic: Functions of Organisms in the Ocean Ecosystem				
1: Entering	2: Beginning	3: Developing	Expanding	5: Bridging
This is a [beluga whale]. It is a [consumer/producer].	[Killer whales and seals] are [consumers/producers] in the [cold water ocean] ecosystem.	My graphic organizer describes the functions of [coral] within [coral reef] ecosystems. These functions are [_____].	My graphic organizer illustrates the connections between the functions of organisms that are producers and consumers within the [coral reef] ecosystem. Here is how they are connected: [_____].	I would like to explain and categorize the functions of organisms within the [_____] ecosystem. My examples about how humans can affect these functions are [_____].

Language frames can be taught using the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model (Pearson & Gallagher, 1983). Early on, the teacher takes responsibility for the lesson, modeling and explaining the frame; then the teacher supports students in using and practicing the skill; then students work with one another to use the skills, and finally students are able to use the language forms and constructions independently, without the frames. Language frames can also be constructed to be progressively more challenging as learners' language develops. The chart above provides examples of language frames for English learners as they develop through language proficiency levels (e.g., WIDA www.wida.us or The Common European Language Framework http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/Source/Framework_EN.pdf).

In science, students are studying ecosystems and working to understand the functions of organisms within ecosystems. Sample language frames are in the area of speaking.

Examples of the use of language frames in content areas:

Language frames for Science	Reading Today: http://www.reading.org/reading-today/classroom/post/engage/2012/01/10/teaching-tips-language-frames-support-literacy-in-science
Language Frames for Math	Math Frame Wiki: https://mathsentenceframes.wikispaces.com http://instructional-strategies.www.esu13.org/modules/locker/files/get_group_file.phtml?gid=1519722&fid=18301456
Language Frames for Social Studies	Fairfax County Frames: http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/parents/documents/AAPforELL/SocialStudiesSentenceFrames.pdf
Language Frames for Language Arts	Language Frames for Different Types of Academic Writing: https://sites.google.com/site/elginisdellinitiative/documents/sentence-stems-paragraph-frames Literacy How Academic Language Function Toolkit (Adapted from Kate Kinsella) http://www.literacyhow.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Academic-Language-Functions-toolkit.pdf Sentence frames from the Northwest Regional Education Service District: http://ell.nwresd.org/node/164 Signal words from the US Literacy Information and Communication System: https://lincs.ed.gov/readingprofiles/Signal_Words.pdf