

STRATEGY GROUP: Metacognitive

STRATEGY SET: Centering your learning

STRATEGY: Overviewing and linking with already known material

This strategy involves previewing the basic principles and/or material for an upcoming language activity, and linking these with what the learners already know. Exactly how this strategy is used depends in part on the skill level of the learners. With higher-level students, you can be less directive in helping them learn to use this strategy. Regardless of the students' level, let them express their own linkages between new material and what they already know, rather than pointing out all the associations yourself.

Ann, a refugee learning English, sees that the next story to be read is about workers in a big city. She overviews the material and considers how the troubles of the workers in the story relate to her own struggles to get a good job.

In any of the skill areas, vocabulary building can be an important part of the overviewing/linking strategy. Students can help each other create and expand lists of relevant vocabulary for an upcoming language task, putting those expressions into context and considering similar expressions in the native language.