

## Word Walls

### **Good Word walls are:**

Practical  
Useful  
Efficient  
Interactive  
Visual

### **Good Word walls are NOT:**

Put up and forgotten  
Put up for decoration  
Never used by students

### **TIPS:**

- The more you model using the word wall, the more your students will use it. Take a few seconds while you model writing a science conclusion to look up at the word wall in order to spell a technical term correctly.
- Velcro strips, magnetic tape, sticky tack, or stick pins all make words easy to move around in different ways. Copies of words put in pockets allow students to take a copy to use at their desk and then return to the pocket.
- Three-panel display boards (science fair boards) allow for usage and storage to help the limited space classroom. It is free standing and takes no wall space and can be moved around the room.
- Second Language Learners benefit from their native language being a part of the word wall. Pictures also help the learner develop the concept of the word.

## IDEAS for Interactive Uses:

- ❑ Concept Attainment (Examples/Nonexamples) Teacher begins by placing words in a column that are examples of a concept. She can place a non example as well. For example: A bear is an example, a cat is an example, a rock is a not an example. Answer: Living and Non living things.
- ❑ Word Sorts  
(categorize words: give category or allow students to come up with their own category)
- ❑ I'm Thinking of a Word That...: Game where students guess what word the teacher is giving hints about
- ❑ Act Out: Student acts out a word and the class tries to guess what word they are acting out
- ❑ Pictionary: Students play in small groups using words on the word wall to draw for their team.
- ❑ Integration:  
What word rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_.  
What word starts with the same letter as \_\_\_\_\_.  
Yes, I can read this word. I see /br/ like the beginning of Brandon's name and /ain/ like our key word rain. The word must be brain.