

Professional language: Sciences



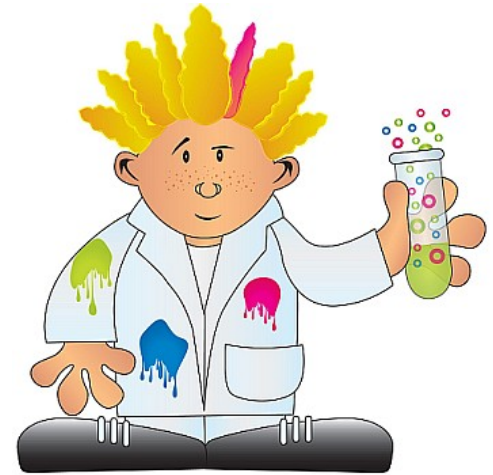


The role of language in science

- Science has its own specific language
- Therefore every lesson is a science language lesson
- The key to understanding and application of science concepts is scientific language

The role of language in science

- An ability to understand and use scientific language is required for:
 - exams
 - employment
 - science-based hobbies
 - taking part in democratic debate
 - making personal decisions (e.g. Health)



Different kinds of language in science

- **Scientific concepts**
force - push, pull, twist, friction, resistance
- **Practical work**
forcemeter, wires, pipette, investigate
- **Language of mathematics**
measurement, counting, comparison
- **Language of data handling**
graph, line, plot, axis, point, analyse
- **Language of description**
awesome, wonderful, beautiful, horrible

Why scientific language can be difficult

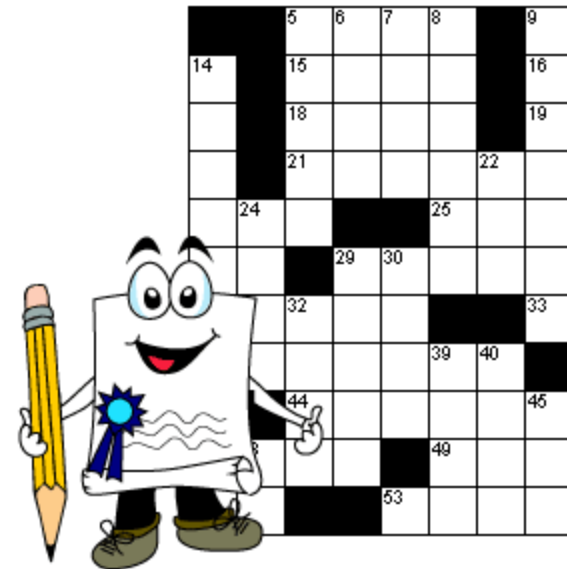


Some words are alien to students

- Because they are new (e.g. resistance)
- Because they can also be used in everyday contexts (e.g. force)
- Because they sound like other words that students know (e.g. friction/fiction)
- Because they are ‘theoretical, not practical’ (e.g. electron)

Learning scientific vocabulary

- Match the science word/picture/object/definition
- What am I? Riddles
- Spelling tests
- Crossword puzzles
- Word searches
- Word games



The language of persuasive argument in science

- There is a lot of discussion about...
- I am going to explain why I think that...
- The people who agree with this idea, claim that...
- As a result I believe...
- The main reason is...
- I disagree because...
- So...
- You might not agree but you should consider...
- After looking at all of the arguments...
- Some people might argue that...
- Our evidence shows that...
- There are several reasons why...

Alternative ways to communicate science

- Advertisements
- Cartoons
- Diaries
- Role play
- Flow charts
- TV and radio interviews
- Models
- PowerPoint presentations
- Flow charts
- Graphs
- Instructions
- Leaflets
- Email
- Letters
- Newspaper articles
- Poetry
- Posters
- Puppets

The language of science

Scientific vocabulary is a hodge podge of little words that are linked together to have different meanings. If you learn the meanings of the little words, you'll find scientific vocabulary much easier to understand.



Sources:

- <http://www.biologycorner.com/worksheets/language.html>
- www.google.cz
- <http://www.teachers.net.qa>



**Thank you for your
attention!**

