**Social Language vs Academic Language**

**Social language**

* simple and informal
* talking to friends
* informal face-to-face conversations

**Academic English**

* formal
* demanding
* complex

It generally takes an ELL student about 7-10 years to become proficient in a second language. ELLs need to have mastery in social communication before they can begin to comprehend academic language.

An ELL student who has mastered the use of use Social English will still need support with Academic English as they lack the academic vocabulary needed to develop the content knowledge in English.

**Improving Academic Language Skills**

* focus on oral language
* explicitly teach academic vocabulary in the content areas
  + Quizlet
  + Nearpod, etc. are good tools to help
* re-teach and reinforce academic vocabulary
* re-teach and reinforce words that we typically assume they already know.
  + Some of the unknown words that have come up include – hook, prep, Bloom’s Taxonomy words, homographs.

**Strategies that will help students in the classroom include**

* using sentence stems with word boxes
* picture and word clues
* small group mini lessons or 1 to 1 instruction
* allowing students to show their understanding of a concept in ways other than just written
  + oral
  + diagrams