Figure 8.4   Routines for Using Vocabulary and Academic Language

Technique	Definition	Example
Barrier Games	One partner has a picture or information that the other partner does not have. Students sit back-to-back or have a visual obstruction to block their view (barrier). Using oral language only, students communicate to complete the task.	Tasks may require partners to draw a picture, place objects in specific positions, or find the difference in two pictures. For example, students might describe positions on a map using directional vocabulary.
Concept Sort	Students sort words, phrases, or sentences into categories that relate to the concept they are studying. Sorting may be by category, sequence, characteristics, or something else.	Students sort descriptions of the major characters in a book based on whether they have positive, neutral, or negative connotations and meaning.
Frayer Model Cards	Using an index card divided into four quadrants, students (1) name the target word; (2) provide a definition in their own words; (3) identify a word that has the opposite meaning or is a nonexample of the target word; and (4) draw a picture to illustrate it. These are used as personal flashcards.	After developing their own Frayer cards, students practice using target words identified for a chapter book they are reading.
List-Group-Label	This is a prereading strategy similar to concept sorts, but categories (labels) are developed by the students rather than predetermined. Students brainstorm words they expect to encounter in a reading (list), and then group them based on similarities (group). Finally, they develop categories (labels) for the groups.	In advance of a reading about polar bears, students list words they expect to read, then sort them based on similar features, and then title the emerging categories.
Graphic Organizers and Word Maps	Students create visual displays of relationships between and among concepts and words. The purpose is to build schema and deepen knowledge.	Students build a graphic organizer that reflects the expository text structure of an article they are reading about birds of prey.