

# EL Tip of the Week

## Brick and Mortar Words

*Brick words- words specific to content area*

*Mortar words- process, functional words (academic words)*

| <b>CONTENT-AREA EXAMPLES</b> | <b>MATHEMATICS</b><br><i>Algebra I</i>          | <b>SCIENCE</b><br><i>Biology</i>    | <b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS</b><br><i>English II</i> | <b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b><br><i>U.S. History</i> |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>BRICK</b>                 | Linear function<br>Inequality<br>Rate of change | Cell cycle<br>Chromosome<br>Mitosis | Character<br>Setting<br>Plot                      | Annexation<br>Imperial power<br>Ceded        |
| <b>MORTAR</b>                | Similar<br>Different<br>Example                 | First<br>Next<br>Finally            | Agree<br>Disagree<br>Opinion                      | Cause<br>Effect<br>As a result               |

Though brick words tend to be taught directly and explicitly, teachers of English Learners must place a greater emphasis on explaining, modeling, and using mortar words in context. Teaching mortar words will assist in making content comprehensible in multiple content areas.