

Using Gemini as a Language Support Coach

A playbook for using AI to support reading and writing at the Word, Sentence, and Paragraph levels.

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The Classroom Shift

Turning AI from a simple shortcut into an active, helpful learning partner.

Three Levels of Language Support



The Word Level

Helping students learn new vocabulary, understand how word parts fit together, and connect words directly to their native language.



The Sentence Level

Breaking down complex sentences and teaching students how to put ideas together logically with real-time feedback.



The Paragraph Level

Helping students organize whole paragraphs, improve transitions, and match their writing style to their audience.

Word Level: Support for Teachers

Instead of spending hours making glossary sheets, teachers can use Gemini to instantly create helpful word guides:

- ✓ **Extract Key Words:** Instantly pull the most important academic words from any lesson text.
- ✓ **Connect to Native Languages:** Match terms with similar-sounding words in Spanish (cognates) to spark quick understanding.
- ✓ **Create Simple Definitions:** Translate difficult or highly technical terms into easy-to-read explanations.

TEACHER PROMPT TEMPLATE

"Extract 5 academic words from this text. Provide student-friendly definitions and Spanish cognates."



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The Everglades in Crisis: Balancing a Fragile Ecosystem

The Florida Everglades is a sprawling, subtropical wetland renowned for its unique biodiversity. Historically, water flowed freely across this "River of Grass," sustaining thousands of species of plants and animals. However, over the past century, human development and climate change have deeply **disrupted** this natural flow, threatening the survival of this vital ecosystem.

The Domino Effect of Human Intervention

To accommodate growing cities and agriculture, engineers built a massive network of canals and dikes. While these structures prevented flooding in urban areas, they managed to drastically **alter** the landscape. By diverting water away from its historic pathways, the delicate balance of nutrients and salinity in the wetlands changed.

Because of these environmental shifts, native wildlife populations **declined** sharply. Species like the elusive Florida panther and the snail kite found their hunting grounds shrinking and their food sources disappearing.

A New Threat Multiplier

As if plumbing changes weren't enough, the introduction of invasive species has accelerated the crisis. The Burmese python, accidentally released into the wild, found a perfect home in the swamps. Lacking natural predators, the python population grew **exponentially**, decimating local mammal populations at a terrifying speed.

Deploying Solutions for the Future

The situation is critical, but scientists and engineers aren't giving up. Under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), teams are now **deploying** advanced water-management systems. By removing old canals and strategically releasing water, conservationists aim to mimic the historic, seasonal pulses of nature.

Restoring the Everglades is an uphill battle against decades of damage. However, through careful scientific monitoring and targeted intervention, there is still hope to revive America's premier wetland before it is permanently changed.

Example: Vocabulary Guide

This vocabulary guide was instantly generated by Gemini using the sample text about the Everglades shown on the previous slide:

Academic Word	Easy-to-Understand Definition	Spanish Helper Word
Disrupted	Broke apart or interrupted the normal way something works.	Disrompido / Interrumpido
Exponentially	Growing or increasing faster and faster over time.	Exponencialmente
Declined	Became smaller, fewer, or less in number or quality.	Declinado
Deploying	Putting something into action or moving resources into position.	Desplegando
Alter	To change something slightly, often in its appearance or character.	Alterar

Word Level: Student Coaching



Context Clue Partner

Guides students to discover word meanings on their own using the words around them, rather than just giving away the answer.

STUDENT PROMPT

"I don't know the word 'scarcity'. Don't define it. Give me a hint using context clues."



Prefix & Root Challenges

Creates quick, customized practice activities to help students master prefixes, suffixes, and root words on demand.

STUDENT PROMPT

"Give me three practice sentences using the prefix 'auto-'. Leave a blank for me to fill in."

Sentence Level: Teacher Setup



Sentence Starters (Tiered)

Instantly create different levels of sentence starters. This allows you to keep the same lesson topic while matching each student's current English level.

TEACHER PROMPT

"Create Level 1, 2, and 3 sentence starters to explain the cause of tectonic shifts."



Combining Sentences

Creates practice exercises that teach students how to combine short, simple sentences into longer, stronger statements.

TEACHER PROMPT

"Create 3 sentence-combining exercises about cell structures using 'because', 'although', or 'since'."

| Experiencing the Learner's Stretch

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"Before embarking on the diurnal migration, one must ensure the vessel's primary portal is securely battened down against the elements. Descend the companionway with deliberate tread, minding the sudden pitch of the threshold."

A SIMPLE EXERCISE TO FEEL THE COGNITIVE CHALLENGE OF READING DENSE, UNFAMILIAR VOCABULARY.



[Simulation Activity](#)

Sentence Level: Student Practice

The Writing Coach

Instead of asking Gemini to "correct my paper" (which stops students from thinking), students can ask the AI to act as a supportive editor that points out grammar patterns.

This interactive conversation keeps students thinking and helps them find and correct their own mistakes in verb tenses, plurals, and word choice.

STUDENT PROMPT TEMPLATE

"Find the verb tense error in this sentence. Do not rewrite it. Give me a clue so I can fix it."



Discourse Level: Adjusting Reading



Making Hard Texts Accessible

Simplify the sentence structures in difficult science or history articles without watering down the important facts, scientific terms, or main ideas.

THE RIGHT WAY TO PROMPT

"Rewrite this to make it more accessible for a beginning English learner. Keep the key vocabulary but simplify the sentence structures."



Visual Outlines

Turn long, heavy informational articles into clear, step-by-step outlines that show how the main claims, evidence, and conclusions fit together.

TEACHER PROMPT

"Outline this reading passage into a 3-part structure showing the main claim, evidence, and conclusion."

Discourse Level: Polishing Tone

Help students learn how to write essays, reports, and arguments clearly:

- ✓ **Polishing Style & Tone:** Teach students how to turn everyday, casual notes into professional, academic writing.
- ✓ **Using Transition Words:** Learn how to connect different paragraphs together using transition words (like "however," "therefore," "in addition").
- ✓ **Analyzing Layouts:** See how different kinds of writing (like science lab reports or history essays) are structured.

STUDENT STYLE PROMPT

"I want to write this to sound like a science lab report. How should I rewrite it to sound formal?"



Scaffolding Practice Matrix

Focus Level	Teacher Prep (Materials)	Student Use (Self-Coaching)
Word Level	Generating word lists and bilingual helper guides directly from class texts.	Solving vocabulary challenges; practicing prefixes and root words.
Sentence Level	Differentiating sentence starters (for beginner to advanced levels).	Getting feedback on writing patterns without just being handed the answers.
Discourse Level	Simplifying complex reading articles while keeping class standards high.	Translating draft ideas from casual, spoken English into academic writing.

Questions & Answers

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Image Sources



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