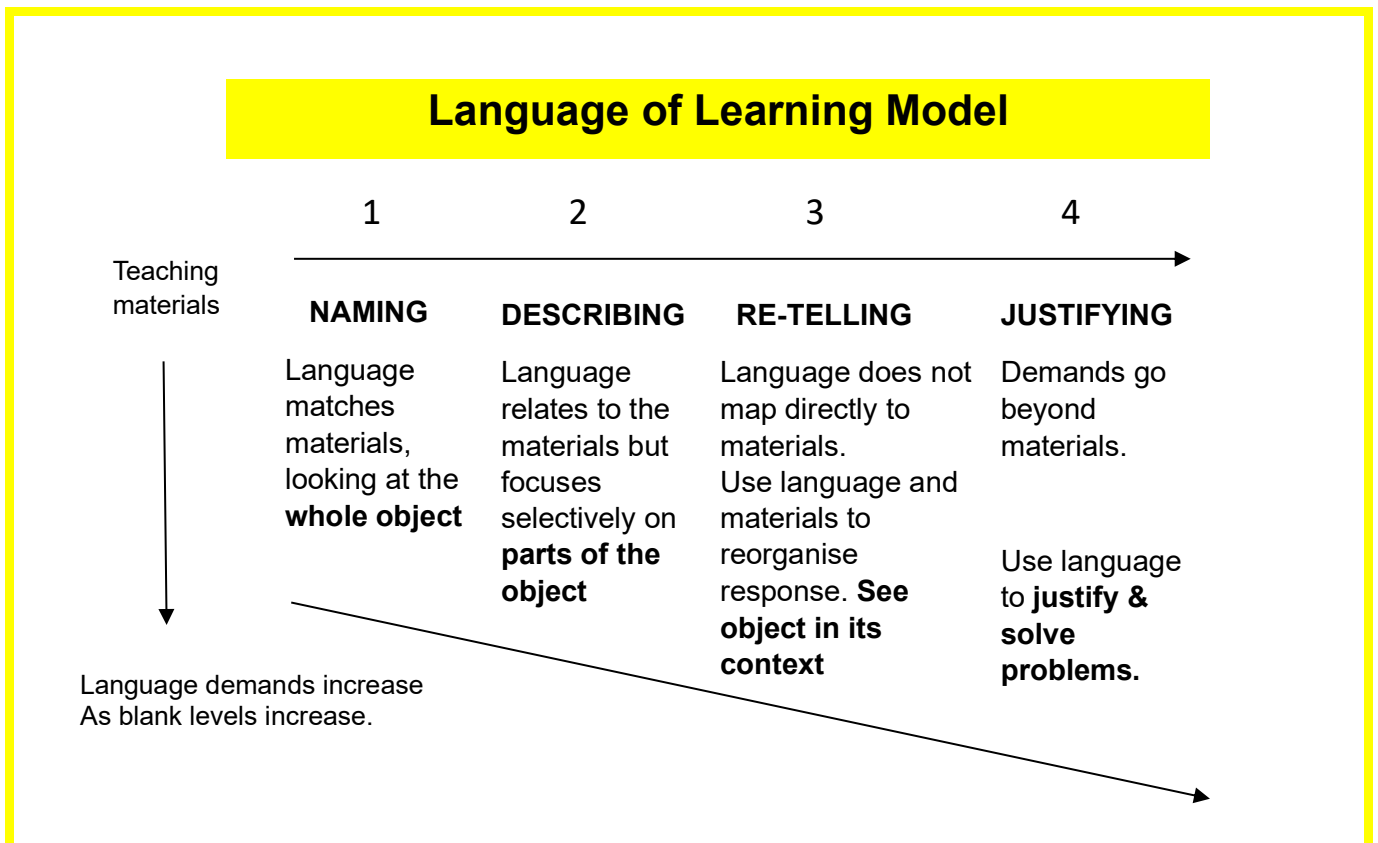


Blank Levels

What are Blank Levels?

Marion Blank (Blank, Rose and Berlin, 1978), created the Blank Language Scheme or Language of Learning Model.

They identified four levels of language in verbal reasoning and abstract language:



Blank Language of Learning Model - derived from Language Builders, Elks, L. and McLachlan H, 2012

Why Blank Levels are important

- They can be used to assess the types of question a pupil understands.
- Adults understand how to modify language to suit each pupil.
- They can assess a pupil's verbal reasoning skills.
- Adults understand how to support verbal reasoning skills further.
- They support learning across different curriculum areas.

Verbal reasoning - the ability to understand, analyse, and draw logical conclusions from a piece of written or spoken information.

Examples of Questions



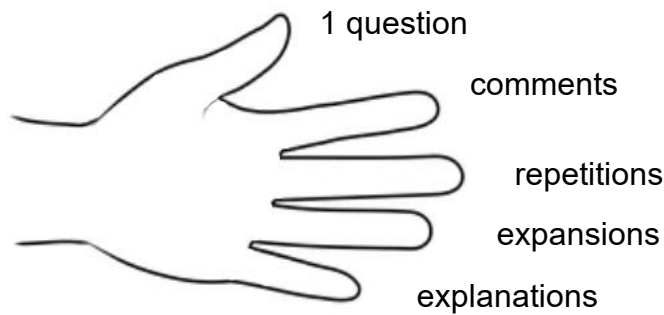
Blank Level 1: Naming	With similar equipment in picture 1 and looking at picture 1 and 2 Example questions/directions
Point to an object. Finding a matching object. Name an object.	Point to the trowel. Give me the fork. Find another one like this. What's this?
Blank Level 2: Describing	
Function Sentence completion Things that go together Sorting + categorising Give an example (Examples in sight) Linguistic concepts Describe a scene (picture is there) Who? What? Where?	What do we use to water the garden? You dig the garden with a? What goes with fork? What else can grow in the garden? Find two pots. What is happening in the picture? Who is in the picture? What are they doing? Where are they?
Blank Level 3: Re-telling	
Follow a set of directions Give another example BUT listen to extra conditions Arrange pictures in a sequence Tell a story or describe an event Summarise the story/event in one sentence Predict What does a character say? How does a character feel?	Dig the hole and put the plant in the hole. Find me something else that is blue. Put pictures of an activity in order . Tell me how to plant a bulb. What have you done? What might happen next? What does Mum say if her plants don't grow? How does Mum feel when she has finished?
Level 4: Justifying	
Justify a prediction Identify the cause Solve a problem Solve a problem from another's point of view Make an inference from an observation Explain why something cannot be done Select a means to a goal Explain the logic of compound words	Why will the plant grow? What made the plant grow? What could you do if there is no water? What could Mum do if the trowel breaks? How can you tell that this trowel is new? Why can't we grow a plant without water? What would we need to plant a tree? (objects not in sight) Why is this called a flower pot?

Derived from Language Builders, Elks, L. and McLachlan H, 2012

Parents can also try these types of questions when reading books, talking, or doing activities with their children.

Using the Hand rule (taken from Elklan, Language Builders)

Only ask one question to four statements – comments, repetitions, expansions, explanations



There is a useful video here (correct at time of writing).

[Blank levels of Language \(Blank, Rose and Berlin\) \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0M3N3wA0Eg)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0M3N3wA0Eg>

Assessing Blank levels

This can be done by Speech and Language Therapists, Elklan Qualified Teaching Assistants, SENCos.

Find out More:

- Blank Levels are discussed in more detail in the Elklan book 'Language Builders'.
- There are further resources in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust Speech and Language Therapy Toolkit
<https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/speech-and-language-therapy-toolkit>
- They are covered as part of the Elklan 11 week course 'Speech and Language Support for 5-11's' which can be accessed through either:

SEND 0-25 training:

11 week accredited course for TAs (usually Spring Term)

2 day overview for SENCos (usually Summer Term)

Elkan courses for Teaching Assistants in Primary schools are offered jointly by the Cambridgeshire Speech and Language Therapists and Cambridgeshire Specialist Teachers - schools access through Booking Bug

Elklan

<https://www.elklan.co.uk/>