

Study Skills: Vocabulary

Focus on vocabulary

1. Record new words and expressions in sets of 7-10 in a notebook.
2. Write memorable sentences but leave a gap where the new word or expression should be.
3. Test your memory each day until you remember them all – can you remember which new word goes in which gap?
4. Aim to learn 7-8 words days, 50 words a week.
5. Try to use the new words whenever you speak or write in English. This will help you to remember them.

Recording new language:

Do this every day in class, using your Vocabulary book and /or a special section (s) in your folder. Follow up this record of new words at home (see below). Write down the uses of the new words in good, lively/funny examples given by teacher and students.

Differentiate between **literal** uses and more **idiomatic** or non-literal uses of the same word.

You should now be adding to a systematic record of:

Slang terms, abbreviations, everyday idiom, phrasal verbs, collocations; homophones, homographs, homonyms

Be clear and concise in your definitions and examples. For every new word or phrase:

- 1) Use word families and topics for sorting vocabulary
- 2) Add to your antonyms and synonyms, singular and plural forms, suffixes and prefixes on root words.
- 3) Make basic collocations – adjectives and nouns, [eg traffic jam/lights] verbs and nouns

Note the following:

1. more than one translation of the word
2. the pronunciation
3. the part of speech
4. associated words and grammar (e.g *the biography of someone*)