

Reading: Improve your vocabulary

Level: Lower-level students ***** [B1/B2]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to improve students' reading skills and develop awareness on how to record / revise vocabulary.

1. Preparation

- Photocopy the 'Vocabulary Text Questions' worksheet and the reading text 'Easy Ways to Improve and Expand Your Vocabulary: Seven Tips for Learning New Words' for each student.

2. Introduction

- Put students into small groups & hand out worksheet 'Vocabulary Text Questions'.
- Students discuss the five questions.
- Feedback as group to whole class.

3. Reading Text

- Give out reading text.
- Students work through 'Vocabulary Text Questions' Sheet.
- **Question 2 - Headings:** Students read the text and identify the correct heading for each paragraph.
- **Question 3 - True, False or Not Given:** Students read in detail to identify T / F / NG
- **Question 4 - Vocabulary Development:** students look for the specific word in the text.
- **Question 5 - Evaluation:** Students write a sentence on which idea would be appropriate for them to adopt.
- **Teacher constantly monitors and provides feedback when/if necessary.**

4. Research

- **Question 6 - Websites and Apps:** Students use their phones/computers to research the range of apps and websites provided.
- **Lesson idea.** Jigsaw research task. Form six groups. Each group researches one website/app. Regroup students to disseminate information.
- **Lesson idea 2.** Student presentations. Form six groups. Each group researches one website/app. Each group presents research to the class.
- **Teachers should do background research before the class on the websites /apps to help guide the students' research and discovery.**

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Vocabulary Text Questions

1. Speaking: Discussion

Discuss these questions in small groups or with a partner.

- i. How do you record vocabulary?
- ii. How do you group your vocabulary?
- iii. Do you include examples? Definitions? Collocations? Phonemic script? Etc...
- iv. How often do you review your vocabulary lists?
- v. Do you use any Apps to record your vocabulary?

2. Match subheadings to paragraphs

Read the article on 'Easy ways to improve and expand your vocabulary' and match the headings below to the gaps in the article. There is one heading that you do not need to use.

1	Keep a journal.
2	Record yourself speaking.
3	Play some games.
4	Read, read and read.
5	Engage in conversations.
6	Keep a dictionary & thesaurus handy.
7	Go back to your roots.
8	Learn a word a day.

___ / 7

3. True / False or Not given

Decide if these statements are True(T) / False (F) / Not Given (NG)

Paragraph		T / F / NG
1	You should guess unknown words from their grammatical structure.	
2	You should research deeply all aspects of a word.	
3	Using a vocabulary book will help you access words more easily.	
4	A word-a-day technique is not used by many people.	
5	Schools should teach Latin and Greek to help understand the foundation of language.	
6	Playing word games is one of the best ways to learn new words.	
7	Speaking will help improve pronunciation.	

___ / 7

4. Vocabulary development

Look at each paragraph and find the word which matches the definition.

Paragraph	word	Definition / meaning
1	combination	<i>a result of two or more things joining together.</i>
2		<i>a very slight difference in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.</i>
3		<i>the act of making something stronger.</i>
4		<i>not able to be changed or persuaded.</i>
5		<i>to discover the meaning of something hard to understand.</i>
6		<i>a long search for something that is difficult to find.</i>
7		<i>to write something quickly on a piece of paper so that you remember it.</i>

___ / 6

5. Evaluation

Which of the seven tips do you think you will use to improve your vocabulary? Why?

6. Websites and apps

Research these different websites and apps to see if there is anything here you could use to help improve your vocabulary.

Flashcards (create your own or find sets to study):

- i. Quizlet [<https://quizlet.com>]
- ii. CRAM [<https://www.cram.com>]
- iii. Brain Scape <https://www.brainscape.com>

Games and quizzes

- iv. Vocabulary.com = play & lists [<https://www.vocabulary.com>]
- v. Dictionary.com = games & quizzes [<https://www.dictionary.com/games/quizzes/>]
- vi. Academic Vocabulary Exercises [<http://www.englishvocabularyexercises.com/AWL/>]

Individual Research

- vii. Do some internet research to see if you can find any helpful apps or websites.

Easy Ways to Improve and Expand Your Vocabulary: Seven Tips for Learning New Words

by R. Hansen (2014)

Looking for tips for improving your vocabulary? Whether you are trying to strengthen and broaden your vocabulary for school or personal growth, the key is a commitment to regularly learning new words.

Why expand your knowledge and use of words? You'll be able to communicate (speak and write) more clearly and concisely, people will understand you more easily, and you will increase the perception (and reality) that you are an intelligent person. Besides, learning new words is a fun activity -- and one you can even do with the people around you. Challenge a friend, family member, or roommate to learn new words with you. This article reviews seven easy ways to improve your vocabulary and learn new words.

1. _____ The more you read – novels, magazines and newspapers -- the more words you'll be exposed to. As you read and uncover new words, use a combination of attempting to derive meaning from the context of the sentence as well as from looking up the definition in a dictionary.
2. _____. Go and use whatever versions you prefer -- in print, software, or online. When you uncover a new word, look it up in the dictionary to get both its pronunciation and its meaning(s). Next, go to the thesaurus and find similar words and phrases -- and their opposites (synonyms and antonyms, respectively) -- and learn the nuances among the words.
3. _____. It's a good idea to keep a running list of the new words you discover so that you can refer back to the list and slowly build them into your everyday vocabulary. Plus, keeping a journal of all your new words can provide positive reinforcement for learning even more words -- especially when you can see how many new words you've already learned.
4. _____. Using a word-a-day calendar or Website -- or developing your own list of words to learn -- is a great technique many people use to learn new words. This approach may be too rigid for some, so even if you do use this method, don't feel you must learn a new word every day.
5. _____. One of the most powerful tools for learning new words - and for deciphering the meaning of other new words -- is studying Latin and Greek roots. Latin and Greek elements (prefixes, roots, and suffixes) are a significant part of the English language and a great tool for learning new words
6. _____. Word games that challenge you and help you discover new meanings and new words are a great and fun tool in your quest for expanding your vocabulary. Examples include crossword puzzles, anagrams, word jumble, Scrabble, and Boggle. (Find some word-game Websites at the end of this article.)
7. _____. Simply talking with other people can help you learn and discover new words. As with reading, once you hear a new word, remember to jot it down so that you can study it later -- and then slowly add the new word to your vocabulary.

From: <http://www.enhancemyvocabulary.com/improve-expand-vocabulary.html>

TEST Questions **ANSWERS**

2. Match sub-headings to paragraphs

1	Keep a journal. [3]
2	Record yourself speaking.
3	Play some games. [6]
4	Read, read and read. [1]
5	Engage in conversations. [7]
6	Keep a dictionary & thesaurus handy. [2]
7	Go back to your roots. [5]
8	Learn a word a day. [8]

3. True / False or Not given

Paragraph		T / F / NG
1	You should guess unknown words from their grammatical structure. <i>[derive meaning from the context of the sentence]</i>	T
2	You should research deeply all aspects of a word. <i>[look it up, pronunciation, similar words, synonyms & antonyms, nuances]</i>	T
3	Using a vocabulary book will help you access words more easily. <i>[refer back to the list]</i>	T
4	A word-a-day technique is not used by many people. <i>[many people use to learn new words]</i>	F
5	Schools should teach Latin and Greek to help understand the foundation of language.	NG
6	Playing word games is one of the best ways to learn new words.	NG
7	Speaking will help improve pronunciation.	NG

4. Vocabulary development

Paragraph		Definition / meaning
1	combination	<i>a result of two or more things joining together</i>
2	nuances	<i>a very slight difference in appearance, meaning, sound, etc.</i>
3	reinforcement	<i>the act of making something stronger.</i>
4	rigid	<i>not able to be changed or persuaded.</i>
5	deciphering	<i>to discover the meaning of something hard to understand.</i>
6	quest	<i>a long search for something that is difficult to find.</i>
7	jot down	<i>to write something quickly on a piece of paper so that you remember it.</i>

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Looking for tips for improving your vocabulary? Whether you are trying to strengthen and broaden your vocabulary for school or personal growth, the key is a commitment to regularly learning new words.

Why expand your knowledge and use of words? You'll be able to communicate (speak and write) more clearly and concisely, people will understand you more easily, and you will increase the perception (and reality) that you are an intelligent person. Besides, learning new words is a fun activity -- and one you can even do with the people around you. Challenge a friend, family member, or roommate to learn new words with you. This article reviews seven easy ways to improve your vocabulary and learn new words.

1. **Read, read, and read.** The more you read -- novels, magazines and newspapers -- the more words you'll be exposed to. As you read and uncover new words, use a combination of attempting to derive meaning from the context of the sentence as well as from looking up the definition in a dictionary.

2. **Keep a dictionary and thesaurus handy.** Go and use whatever versions you prefer -- in print, software, or online. When you uncover a new word, look it up in the dictionary to get both its pronunciation and its meaning(s). Next, go to the thesaurus and find similar words and phrases -- and their opposites (synonyms and antonyms, respectively) -- and learn the nuances among the words.

3. **Use a journal.** It's a good idea to keep a running list of the new words you discover so that you can refer back to the list and slowly build them into your everyday vocabulary. Plus, keeping a journal of all your new words can provide positive reinforcement for learning even more words -- especially when you can see how many new words you've already learned.

4. **Learn a word a day.** Using a word-a-day calendar or Website -- or developing your own list of words to learn -- is a great technique many people use to learn new words. This approach may be too rigid for some, so even if you do use this method, don't feel you must learn a new word every day. (Find some word-a-day Websites at the end of this article.)

5. **Go back to your roots.** One of the most powerful tools for learning new words -- and for deciphering the meaning of other new words -- is studying Latin and Greek roots. Latin and Greek elements (prefixes, roots, and suffixes) are a significant part of the English language and a great tool for learning new words. (Follow these links for the sections of this site that provide English Vocabulary Derived from Latin and English Vocabulary Derived from Greek.)

6. **Play some games.** Word games that challenge you and help you discover new meanings and new words are a great and fun tool in your quest for expanding your vocabulary. Examples include crossword puzzles, anagrams, word jumble, Scrabble, and Boggle. (Find some word-game Websites at the end of this article.)

7. **Engage in conversations.** Simply talking with other people can help you learn and discover new words. As with reading, once you hear a new word, remember to jot it down so that you can study it later -- and then slowly add the new word to your vocabulary.

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