



Tips for Studying Vocabulary

As you know, a good vocabulary helps you to be a better reader and a better writer. But how do you memorize all those vocabulary words?

Start by following this process each time you get a list of new words:

1. Write each word on an index card.
2. Look up the definition and write it on the index card, too.
3. Write an original sentence for the word on the index card. This way, you can see the word used in context.
4. Carry the cards with you. Whenever you have some spare time, practice memorizing them.

Next, use these tips to help making learning and remembering vocabulary a breeze.

- **Using a picture or visual:**
 - Create a picture in your head.
 - Relate the word to other words you know.
 - See the word and its definition.
 - Draw a picture of the word.
- **Chunking:**
 - Break the word into chunks using the root, prefix, or suffix.
 - Use a part of the word—the root, prefix, or suffix—to help you remember the definition.
 - Group words together if they have something in common.
- **Rhymes and songs:**
 - Rhyme the words.
 - Rhyme parts of their definitions.
- **Acronyms:**
 - Use the first letter of each word of the definition to create an acronym.
- **Movements:**
 - Use a motion or gesture based on the definition of the word.

Try using each of these study techniques to find the ones that work best for you. Then apply them every time you study vocabulary.