



The Learning Centre

Language Skills Improving Your Vocabulary

- ❖ Read, read, read!!! Exposing yourself to new words through reading is a great way to improve your vocabulary and to understand the context in which different words are used.
- ❖ If someone uses a word that you are not familiar with, ask the person, “What does that word mean?” or write the word down and look up the definition later.
- ❖ Make flash cards, tables or web diagrams to help you remember the definitions of words.
- ❖ Create a word family chart with all possible word forms.
- ❖ Use an online or paper dictionary in English. When learning a new word, check the spelling, part of speech, pronunciation, definition, synonyms, and antonyms of that word.
- ❖ Refer to vocabulary resources available in the OC library. The librarians can help you find these materials – just ask!
- ❖ Refer to online vocabulary resources, such as the Academic Word List or the Oxford 3000 (lists of the most useful academic vocabulary):
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/>
http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/us/wordlist/american_english/oxford3000/
- ❖ Review and use the new words as much as possible!