

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Vocabulary skills refer to the ability to understand and use words effectively in language learning and communication.

There are other forms of vocabulary learning skills:

- **Indirect Vocabulary learning:** This is where student learn vocabulary indirectly when they hear and see words used in many different context; for example through conversations with others, movies, News, through reading or any encounter with words without the intention of studying them.
- **Direct Vocabulary learning:** This is where student deliberately make an effort to study and know words using dictionary, reading and other medium of knowing words.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOCABULARY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

1. Increases word repository (reservoir or bank)

Words are the only tool that you have available to communicate effectively. Therefore, the more words you know and can use, the more likely it is that you will be able to find the perfect way to string together your thoughts into a message. Having a large vocabulary allows you to say the same thing in a variety of different ways to wow your audience and readers.

2. Improves oral and writing skills

Building vocabulary amongst children will help them to never lack words to express themselves when speaking or writing. Children having a lot of vocabulary have the confidence to speak fluently and write seamlessly because they can easily dive into their well of vocabulary to choose words which goes with what their minds want to communicate.

How to build your Vocabulary

1. READ...A LOT

Reading everything you can get your hands on is one of the most passive and most effective ways to boost your vocabulary. When you read, you'll see new words put into use by writers who are likely to have a diverse vocabulary and you can add these words to your own vocabulary as you come across them.

2. KEEP A THESAURUS AND A DICTIONARY NEARBY

What is the difference between a Dictionary and a Thesaurus?

- *A dictionary provides definitions as well as outlines how a word is used grammatically and provides examples of its use.*
- *A thesaurus provides synonyms, or similar words, for a word. These two tools are widely available in both print and electronic form, and you probably have access to at least a few of them.*
- ✓ Whenever you come across a word that you don't understand, look it up in a dictionary and take the time to commit the word and its definition to memory.
- ✓ Meanwhile, you can look up words that you already know in a thesaurus at any time to find other words that mean the same thing. Commit a few of those words to memory and you'll have the ability to say the same thing in a number of different, more eloquent ways.

3. MAKE FLASHCARDS

Start by putting together a few dozen flash cards filled with words that you don't yet have committed to your vocabulary, and frequently add new flashcards to your collection. If you run through these flashcards just once a day you will be well on your way to expanding your vocabulary.

4. LISTEN TO MUSIC OR OTHER AUDIO ELEMENTS: In the same way that reading grows your vocabulary, listening can grow your vocabulary as well. Listening to music is one good option, especially if you are listening to artists that are creative with their verses and rhymes. However, listening to podcasts, audiobooks, and more can also improve your vocabulary over time as well. Watch news and other panel discussion as well.

5. COMMIT TO LEARNING ONE NEW WORD EVERY DAY OR WEEK

Learning just one new word a day isn't a particularly challenging goal, yet it is one that can make a dramatic difference in your vocabulary.

Each day, choose a new word to memorize and try to use that word as often as you can throughout the day.

6. GET VOCABULARY MENTORS

There are individuals who speak very well and have a good repository of vocabularies. Listen to them often. Go to youtube, TikTok, Facebook and other platforms of this people to continually glean from their expertise.

7. GET A VOCABULARY JOURNAL/BOOK

Get a small book or journal which you can use to document or write all new words you come across. Even when you leave your book at home, you can write it on a piece of paper or even type it on your phone. The key is to get the word so that you can learn its spellings and meaning later. Even when you are not sure of its spellings, searching it on google. It can give you the correct spellings.

8. VOCABULARY GAMES

There is a wide range of online games designed to help you improve your vocabulary. These games can serve as a fun and entertaining way to learn new words and put the words that you already know into practice. **SCRABBLE** is a very effective vocabulary building game.

JOIN A BOOK CLUB

Meeting people who are also passionate about reading and writing can help you develop your skill quickly. You can join a book club within your locality and meet new people who can help you maintain your desire to build your vocabulary. This club will make you accountable so you don't relapse in your quest to improve your literacy.

SET THE TONE TO USE WORDS YOU HAVE LEARNT

Words learnt without usage can lie dormant in our mind which can fizzle out of our mind without we knowing. The best way to keep the words fresh in our minds is to deliberately create communications, sentences or conversations which will make us use those particular words. Doing this frequently will let the words stuck in your memory making it easier to use them when the need arise.