

How to Make a Vocabulary Book

Get a small book / old diary or other exercise book that you can easily carry with you.

1. Format

For every new word that you come across, write down:

Word	Sentence it came in	Where it came from.	Dictionary meaning / translation
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It is important to write down all these details, because it will help you to remember the word. If you are Pre-Intermediate or above, try to use an English to English dictionary rather than translate the words.

If you are writing down more words than you can remember, choose the most important words. I'd recommend limiting yourself to a maximum of 10 words per day.

2. How to get these words

Every day try to read something that challenges your vocabulary. A newspaper is a great place to start, choose an article that interests you and use that as a start point and as your vocabulary improves choose more challenging items. Other good sources include:

- Magazines
- Books
- Internet pages, try www.bbc.co.uk www.CNN.com www.msn.com or try typing a subject into www.Google.com and see where you go.
- Dictionary – Go through until you find a word you don't know.
- Thesaurus – If you use a word too often, look at the alternatives.

If you are not sure on pronunciation, ask a teacher, friend or look at the pronunciation guide in a dictionary.

3. Review (At least once a day)

Review the words whenever you can, but try to do it at least once a day. A good time to do this, is just before you go to bed. Perhaps you could get a partner/housemate to test you on the words you picked up. (Your memory is at its best just before bed time)

If you can't do that try and read the words aloud and test yourself by covering up the meanings.

4. Every Week

1. Test yourself on all your new words and those words you know, put a tick by them.
2. Remove that week's pages from the book
3. Copy down all the words you haven't learned again