

## Five tips for learning Vocabulary

Examples from the blog. Find out more about *Oxford Word Skills second edition* [here](#).

### 1 Vocabulary consists of Words and Phrases

Here is an example glossary showing many items are made up of more than one word.

GLOSSARY	
<b>get to know sb</b>	meet sb a number of times and become friends
<b>one another</b>	used for saying that sb does the same thing as another person <b>SYN each other</b>
<b>get together</b>	(of two or more people) meet for a social reason
<b>go wrong</b>	used when a problem happens in a situation or relationship
<b>no longer</b>	not now; not as before <b>SYN not any longer</b>
<b>realize</b>	begin to understand sth that you didn't know before
<b>break up (with sb)</b>	stop being in a romantic relationship (with sb)
<b>go out with sb</b>	have sb as a boyfriend/girlfriend
<b>fancy inf</b>	like sb and want to be their boyfriend/girlfriend
<b>in a (serious) relationship</b>	having a boyfriend/girlfriend for a long time

*Oxford Word Skills Intermediate, page 31*

### 2 Keep records of new Vocabulary

Well-organised records allows students to:

- > find vocabulary items easily to check the meaning
- > add more information about usage
- > revise vocabulary they have learnt

### 3 Don't forget Pronunciation (especially vowels) and word stress

Exercises that focus on one feature of pronunciation or word stress can help students to develop a better understanding of how particular letters and combinations of letters are pronounced.

1 Is the pronunciation of the underlined letters the same or different? Write *S* or *D*.  
Use the **APP** to help you.

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 dynamic truly .....        | 5 talkative introvert ..... |
| 2 passionate assert .....    | 6 assertive extrovert ..... |
| 3 passion enthusiastic ..... | 7 enthusiasm decisive ..... |
| 4 lively dynamic .....       | 8 assertive attitude .....  |

*Oxford Word Skills Upper Intermediate/Advanced, page 40*

5 Write the noun forms, then underline the main stress on both verbs and nouns.  
Use the **APP** to help you. Practise saying the words.

- |                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| ▶ discuss <u>discussion</u> ..... | 3 explain ..... |
| 1 repeat .....                    | 4 revise .....  |
| 2 pronounce .....                 | 5 argue .....   |

*Oxford Word Skills Intermediate, page 13*

## 4 Practice!

Some words may be easy to remember, while others seem very difficult. Here is a short activity that tests understanding of animals and insects:

- 1 Write the names of these animals and insects in order from big to small.

bear    cat    fly    whale ✓    monkey    sheep    elephant    lion    mouse

big whale ..... small

*Oxford Word Skills Elementary, page 81*

For students to produce new vocabulary it helps if they use it to talk about their own lives. In this exercise they practice the correct vocabulary and then use it to talk about their own relationships:

- 6 Complete the words in the sentences.

- ▶ How did you get ..... to know ..... your best friend?
- 1 How long have you known one ..... ?
- 2 How often do you get ..... ?
- 3 Is there anything you used to do that you don't do any ..... ?
- 4 Is your friend in a serious ..... ?
- 5 If 'yes', who is it with? If 'no', is he/she ..... with anyone?
- 6 If so, how did they ..... to ..... each other?

ABOUT YOU

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- 7 **ABOUT YOU** Write answers to the questions in Exercise 6, or talk to another student.

*Oxford Word Skills Intermediate, page 31*

## 5 Revision!

If students don't use a word or phrase for a period of time, they can easily forget it. Frequently return to it and revise it.

- > complete exercises in pencil, so students can rub out their answers and repeat later
- > use vocabulary records or glossary to revise by covering one of the two columns, vocabulary on the left and definitions/translations on the right, and remembering what is covered.

**Which of these techniques do you use, and which are new to you?**

**Share your comments and ideas for learning vocabulary with us on social media.**

Find out more about *Oxford Word Skills second edition* [here](#).

Remember that the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary App* (which accompanies *Oxford Word Skills* or can be used separately) gives students the opportunity to listen to the pronunciation of words and phrases. Start your free two-day trial via the [App store](#) or [Google Play](#).