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# Your Vocabulary Game Plan



To become a stronger reader, you need to develop a toolkit of strategies for learning and remembering new vocabulary.

It comes down to a simple truth: if you don't understand the words on the page, you can't fully understand the message of the text. The richer your vocabulary becomes, the more doors reading will open for you.

Here's the good news: there are many effective ways to build word knowledge.



- **Context clues:** Often, a word's position in a sentence—and the words around it—can give you hints about its meaning. Writers usually provide signals through definitions, examples, contrasts, or tone.
- **Reference tools:** Dictionaries and thesauruses are classic resources. A dictionary provides precise definitions, while a thesaurus can help you find synonyms and expand your understanding of shades of meaning.
- **Word parts and etymology:** Many words are built from roots, prefixes, and suffixes. For example, knowing that bio- means “life” can help you unlock words like biology, biography, and antibiotic. Understanding word origins makes it easier to recognize patterns and transfer knowledge to new words.
- **Active use:** Learning a word once isn't enough. To really master it, you need to use it—by writing it in sentences, saying it in conversations, or connecting it to real-life experiences.
- **Reading widely:** The more you read—especially across different subjects—the more vocabulary you'll encounter naturally. Exposure is one of the most powerful teachers.



In short, vocabulary growth doesn't just happen by accident; it's a skill you can train. Every new word you learn is like adding another tool to your mental toolbox—giving you the power to unlock deeper meaning in everything you read.



