

Vocabulary Building

Dear Students

A rich vocabulary is an important area of language competence. We need to communicate with the world at the personal, social as well as professional level. For this purpose, we have to extend our vocabulary to express ourselves.

As words make sentences, you should have the ability to use the right word at the right place. This will help you express yourself correctly.

Extension of vocabulary is a gradual process. The most effective tool is to do regular reading and careful listening of English. Memorizing new words is not advisable, as they don't stay long. Moreover words change their meaning according to context. For instance, the word 'expose' can be used in two ways:

The media has *exposed* his underworld connections.'

'Near an X-ray machine you may *expose* yourself to radiations.'

Here, you should be able to distinguish not only one word from another, but its different shades of usages. We cannot know a word or form it part of our psyche, unless we use it in our day- to- day life.

So the tip is:

Go for contextualised learning of vocabulary. For a word, the sentence forms the context of which it is part of. Secondly put newly acquired words to use in your day-to-day life.

The following sentences will illustrate my point. Try to figure out different contexts of a single word.

- Game: The children were playing games in the garden.
Game: I don't want to be a part of his dirty game.
- Just: He has just left this place.
Just: She is just like her mother.
Just: Just because you are senior to me that does not mean you know everything.
- Line: I drew a thin line across the page.
Line: If you hold the line, I will see if she is available.
- Long: He walked down the long corridor
Long: He had always longed for a successful career.
- Matter: Matter exists in three forms-solid, liquid and gas.
Matter: Nobody likes interferences in personal matters.
Matter: It hardly matters whether you like it or not.
- Bank: She approached the bank for a loan.
Bank: My house is situated on the north bank of the river.
Bank: He donated blood in the blood bank.

Happy Learning!