

IGCSE English Language

**Technical Skills:
Vocabulary**

Is vocabulary important?

A good vocabulary can help you communicate your message more clearly; it can make your writing more appealing to the reader; it helps you comprehend reading material; and, rightly or wrongly, it is used to measure your competency and intelligence.

How do you want to be judged?

I want people to think I am smart because I use a big vocabulary.

I would like people to assume that my extensive vocabulary complements my intelligence.

How to improve your vocabulary

Love words You have to enjoy the challenge of improving your vocabulary. Have fun with idioms, puns, malapropisms and spoonerisms.

Read extensively Find award winning books or the classics, for example, and sit down comfortably to read.

Look up meanings If you don't know the meaning of a word, look up the meaning, or ask someone (with an extensive vocabulary) to define the pesky words.

Use your new words The best way to retain new words learnt is to use them, when speaking or writing.

Use a dictionary and thesaurus There are numerous resources to help you – so use a dictionary, thesaurus, or Internet versions of dictionaries.

Speak and write often If you don't use it, you lose it. Speak, read and write often to improve your vocabulary for specific situations.

Where to go from here...

Building up a vocabulary takes time, patience and perseverance. It is also interesting to learn about the difference in vocabulary between American English and British English – whichever vocabulary you choose, be consistent.

You can:

Read books, magazines, and leaflets for example, to understand how vocabulary is used to enhance meaning.

Listen to announcements and advertisements to hear how words are pronounced.

Try to improve your own writing and speaking skills by adding to your vocabulary often.

Vocabulary resources

INTERNET SUGGESTIONS:

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/vocabulary.htm>

www.virtualsalt.com/CreativeVocab.html

www.virtualsalt.com/vocablst.htm

www.askdefine.com/

www.vocabulary.com/

Vocabulary Resources

- Worksheets created by Eddis Tutorial Services, LLC.
- Reading good books to improve spelling and vocabulary (see book lists for IGCSE English Literature, for example)
- Wordsearches, crossword puzzles, and other word games