

Six Tips for Vocab!

- 1.** Buy a vocab notebook and learn words actively. Don't assume that just reading extensively is enough.
- 2.** Record new vocabulary in the way that best helps you learn it. Writing the English word on one side of the page and its translation on the other is not the only method! You can draw and label pictures, replace your translation with an example sentence showing the meaning, learn opposites together...
- 3.** Set yourself a target number of words to learn every day. If you learn ten new words daily, by the end of a month you will have 300 new words.
- 4.** Learn words in families (as in the previous exercise). Brush up on prefixes and suffixes.
- 5.** Be aware of what "knowing" a word means. For a given word decide whether you need to know spelling, meaning, pronunciation, alternative meanings (which ones?). Do you need to recognise the word or will you use it? If you use it, will you write it or say it?
- 6.** Reading extensively and actively in English is an excellent way of expanding your awareness of the cultural references that you will find in your academic texts. But choose to read things you enjoy! (Otherwise you will soon give up.)