



# connect

Chapter Three:

# Developing Your Vocabulary

Briefly tell your partner about a time when you misunderstood or misused a word.


Describe

- What happened
- How it made you feel
- What you learned from the mistake



# Remember

- A person's vocabulary is never "finished."
- It changes you grow and learn new things.
- It changes as the world changes.
- Did you use "text" as a verb ten years ago?



Mistakes with words are OK –  
the mistakes are proof you are  
learning and growing. Just be  
sure to **learn** from the  
mistakes!



# Vocabulary Strategies

How can you learn and remember new words?

- Learn words in context
- Practice the words
- Use the words with others



# Context Clues

- A **context clue** is a hint (clue) about the meaning of a word that is located in the surrounding words or sentences (context).
- When you use context clues you are not looking for the exact meaning; you are simply looking for enough of an understanding to keep reading.



# Why Context Clues?

- Quicker than the dictionary
- Gives you enough information to get the meaning of the word
- Lets you get on with your reading.

It's like an express checkout -- Get in, get what you need, and get on with your work.



# Finding Context Clues

- Look in **the actual sentence** in which the unknown word appears,
- **The sentence before** the one in which the word appears,
- And **the sentence after** the one in which the word appears.



Context Clues are as

**EASY** as **1-2-3**

**E** = Examples

**A** = Antonyms

**S** = Synonyms

**Y** = Your Logic

**as**

**1** = Look for signal words


**2** = Focus on what you know

**3** = Pay attention to punctuation

## Examples

The author uses a word then explains it

- Signal words:
  - for example
  - for instance
  - such as
  - to illustrate



**Remember:  
Signal words  
may not be  
present!**

## Antonyms

- Words that have opposite meanings, such as *light* and *dark*.
- Signal words:
  - in contrast
  - however
  - but
  - instead
  - even though
  - although
  - unlike
  - yet
  - on the other hand

## Synonyms

- Words that have a similar meaning or the same meaning, such as *small* and *little*.

Signal words:

- like

- as

- also

- as well

- or

- in other words

- that is

- in the same way

Easy as 1-2-3

## Your Logic

1. Start with what you already understand
2. Figure out what you don't yet know.

## 1 – Look for Signal Words

- Signal words or transitions are a good places to look for meaning.
- Signal words often indicate
  - Example clues
  - Antonym clues
  - Synonym clues

## 2 – Focus on What You Know

- Look for connections between prior knowledge and new information.
- Focusing on what you know will help you understand more of what you read than if you focus on what you do not know.



## 3 – Pay Attention to Punctuation

- Punctuation can indicate context clues.

Pay special attention to

- Dashes
- Parentheses
- Commas
- Colons



# Punctuation – Dashes

Remember the importance of dashes – punctuation marks that when used in pairs sometimes indicate a definition – or which may introduce or follow an example.



# Punctuation (Parentheses)

Parentheses (a type of punctuation mark) may enclose definitions.



# Punctuation, Commas

Commas, one of the most common punctuation marks in the English language, may restate the meaning of the previous word.



# Punctuation: Colons

Colon: Words after a colon often are examples or illustrations of the words before it.

# EASY Note Cards

## The word

(the part of speech—  
noun, verb, adjective, adverb)

Example—Write a sentence using the word that shows you know its meaning.

Antonym—the word's opposite (if there is one)

Synonym—a word with a similar meaning (if there is one)

Your Logic—Use your logic to make up a definition in your own words

**Front**

**Back**

# Example EASY Card

**Refuse**

(noun)

Pronunciation: **REFuse**

**Examples:** The dumpster was overflowing with refuse.  
Hoarders can't let go of their refuse.

**Antonyms:** property, assets, stuff you still want

**Synonyms:** garbage, junk, rubbish, trash

**Your logic:** If you would refuse to bring it in your house, it may be refuse!

**Front**

**Back**

- Find someone whose phone number has the same LAST digit (number) as your phone number.

EXAMPLE: 765-876-174**8** and 384-183-564**8**  
can be partners.



- Use scratch paper to make EASY cards for the italicized words on the next screens.
- Feel free to draw a picture on the front of the card, or write how to pronounce the word.
- When finished, share your cards with another group.

I'm scared to death of being poor. It's like a fat girl who loses 500 pounds but is always fat inside. I grew up poor and will always feel poor inside. It's my pet *paranoia*.

-Cher

I love giving gifts and I love receiving them. I really like giving little kids *extravagant* gifts. You see their little faces light up and they get excited. If it's a really good gift, I love receiving it, like jewels, small islands.

-Gina Gershon

Television knows no night. It is *perpetual* day. TV embodies our fear of the dark, of night, of the other side of things.

-Jean Baudrillard

I have a very *eclectic* iPod. So I've got my cardio people - so it's anything from Beyonce to some Jay-Z to Janelle Monae, her song 'Tightrope,' that's a good cardio song. And then I've got Sting. I've got Mary J. Blige. I've got The Beatles. I've got Michael Jackson. I try to pick the songs that I personally love.

-Michelle Obama



# Three Kinds of Word Parts

- The **root** carries the meaning of the word
- The **prefix** is attached to the beginning and changes the meaning of the word
- The **suffix** is attached to the end and changes the meaning and/or part of speech of the word.

By knowing a single piece, you have a clue to the meaning of multiple words.

1. Break into groups of three
2. On a piece of paper, write down words you know that contain the following roots. *You may not know words for all the roots, but fill in what you can.*

- -bio- (life)
- -morph- (form)
- -path- (feeling, suffering)
- -phon- (sound)
- -phil- or -philo- (having a strong affinity or love for)

This time, write down words beginning with these prefixes.

- Non- (not)
- Dis- (opposite of)
- Sub- (under)
- Trans- (across)



- Lastly, write down words ending with the following suffixes.
  - -tion (act, process of)
  - -able (can be done)
  - -ious (possessing qualities of)
  - -ity (state of)
- Share your words with one other group.  
Write down words that aren't on your list.



# Denotation and Connotation

- Denotation is the definition of a word.
- Connotation is the feeling associated with the word.



When I wear high heels I have a great vocabulary and I speak in paragraphs. I'm more eloquent. I plan to wear them more often.

- Meg Ryan