

## ENHANCING YOUR VOCABULARY

### GENERAL TIPS:

- Read
  - Familiarizing yourself with new words by coming across them in text is a great way to strengthen your understanding of them
  - Finding new words in text provides them with context, from which you can infer meaning
  - Reading opens yourself up to the potential for seeing new words
  - Any medium works: articles, news, fiction, etc.
- Use your Dictionary
  - Keep track of words you understand in context, but need further information on, and words you see for the first time
  - Revisit previously searched words to remind yourself of their meaning
- Use your Thesaurus
  - Check out both the synonyms and the antonyms of words
  - When looking for similar words, remember that having a definition in common does not make the words interchangeable; double check how and when each one is used
  - Studying antonyms is just as helpful as studying synonyms; seeing what a word does not mean helps your understanding of what it does mean
- Familiarize Yourself with Common Prefixes and Suffixes
  - It is easier to remember words when you can recall the parts that make them up
  - Affixes and roots have general meanings that can hint at the overall meaning of the word
- Practice
  - Writing things down is a great way to help solidify your familiarity with them
  - Write down newly learned words and the possible forms they take
  - Find example sentences with the words to rewrite

(Continued on reverse side)

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**Additional online resources can be found at [www.madonna.edu/owl](http://www.madonna.edu/owl)**

## OTHER TOOLS:

- Learning Websites
  - [www.vocabulary.com/](http://www.vocabulary.com/)
    - Cycles through words, testing your knowledge on their meaning, usage, synonyms, and antonyms
    - Requires a free account, which can be created through Google or Facebook
  - [www.memrise.com/](http://www.memrise.com/)
    - Includes a plethora of language courses, not just English
    - Has specific courses teaching words used in special settings, such as business, art, science, and more
    - Requires a free account that can be connected through Google or Facebook
  
- Workbooks and Worksheets
  - These do tend to cost money, but are still helpful practice tools
  
- Word Games
  - Various apps focus on building words
    - Word of the Day apps
    - Vocabulary builder apps
    - Most free apps will come with advertisements
  - Crosswords, puzzle-based, word searches, and more
    - Usually free with advertisements
    - May start off with easy words, but eventually grow harder

Adapted from the Johnson O'Connor Research Foundation (<https://www.jocrf.org/resources/effective-ways-build-your-vocabulary>), Jeanne Wanzek, Ph.D. (<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/readingfirst/2008conferences/meaningful.pdf>), and Mary Peabody of Harvest English Institute (<https://harvest.net/6-websites-and-apps-to-improve-your-english-vocabulary/>)