

Vocabulary Building

- When reading, do not stop for every new word you encounter to check a dictionary. Instead, guess the meaning of the word from the situation (context).
- If you notice the same word repeating 3 or 4 times while you are reading and you are still unsure of the meaning, check the word in your dictionary. However, without committing some time to studying and using the word, you will soon forget its meaning.
- If you feel that the word you have checked is important enough for you to remember, add it to a list of new words.
- For more new words, refer to the Academic Word List, also within SALS ONLINE, for common academic words.
- Use post-it notes in places you commonly see to reinforce/recycle your new words for several days; you could also have definitions on the back of the post-its.

Make a **New Vocabulary Notebook** which is only used for the words you want/need to remember. You can arrange the notebook into a chart for your important new words in the following way:

New Word + The part of speech (noun, verb, adjective...)	Definition (use a dictionary)	Personalized Sentence (a sentence connecting the new word to some aspect of your own life)
Apple (noun)	-sweet round fruit -usually red, yellow, or green -baseball sized	I had a sweet, red _____ for lunch yesterday.
Cumbersome (adjective)	-slow, heavy -awkward, complicated -inefficient	The new software I used at work seemed _____ until I got used to it.

With this format it is easy to study the words by covering different columns and testing your knowledge about the hidden information.