

RISE Arkansas

An informational newsletter exploring the Science of Reading in Arkansas

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Inside this issue - Vocabulary

Have you ever read something and struggled to understand what you read because the words were not familiar to you? Consider this sentence:

The grimalkin was irascible and her burgeoning vexation was worsened when she was not able to obtain her nocturnal morsel, a rat.

Chances are that you can read most of the words, but you might not know what some of them mean. This example proves why vocabulary is so important for proficient reading development. If students can read the words, but cannot understand them, there is no comprehension.

Vocabulary acquisition is a skill and it must be practiced! Parents and teachers can't teach their students the meaning of every single word, but there are lots of ways they can help their students know what to do when they encounter unknown words.

If we were to change the sentence above to one that had more common vocabulary, it may sound like this:

The cat was crabby and her growing irritation was worsened when she was not able to catch her nighttime snack, a rat.

This sentence is easier to read and easier to understand, but not nearly as interesting! When students have a limited vocabulary, they will struggle when reading more complex text. This month we will provide a few simple and fun ways to help your child practice the important reading skill of vocabulary acquisition! **Remember, increases in a student's vocabulary mean increases in reading comprehension!**



Children need to hear, understand, and play with new words multiple times to develop a deep understanding of them. This will allow them to eventually use the new word in their own conversations.



Use these helpful steps when introducing new words to your child.



Let's try these steps with the word tradition.

1

Provide a simple, easy-to-understand definition for the new word.

"A tradition is a custom or belief that has been passed on from one generation to another."

2

Provide a simple, easy-to-understand example of the new word that will make sense to your child.

Describe one of your family's traditions. For example, "One of our fun family traditions is to watch the parade on Thanksgiving morning in our pajamas!"

3

Challenge your child to think of their own examples of the word.

"Can you tell me your favorite tradition? Is there a family tradition that you do not like? What is a tradition that you would like our family to start?"

4

Use the new word often! Help your child "own" the new word.

Keep the word alive! Over the next few weeks, encourage your family to use the word tradition as often as they can. November and December present a lot of opportunities to use this fun vocabulary word.

Vocabulary and English Learners

Learning unknown words is more difficult for students whose first language is not English. Before English Learners can learn more advanced content vocabulary, students must learn common words used for expressing themselves and understanding others.

Parents of English Learners can help their students with vocabulary acquisition by:

- helping their children increase their vocabulary in their first language;
- accessing content through audiobooks;
- helping their children understand and identify cognates; and
- providing books in their native language; literacy-rich environments contribute to the facilitation of a new language.

Parents can help their students make a connection to their first language as they learn English by identifying cognates. Cognates are words in two languages that have the same meaning and similar spelling and pronunciation. For example, in English, the word for family is very similar to the Spanish word, familia. There are hundreds of English-Spanish cognates.

Scan here for a
list of English-
Spanish Cognates.

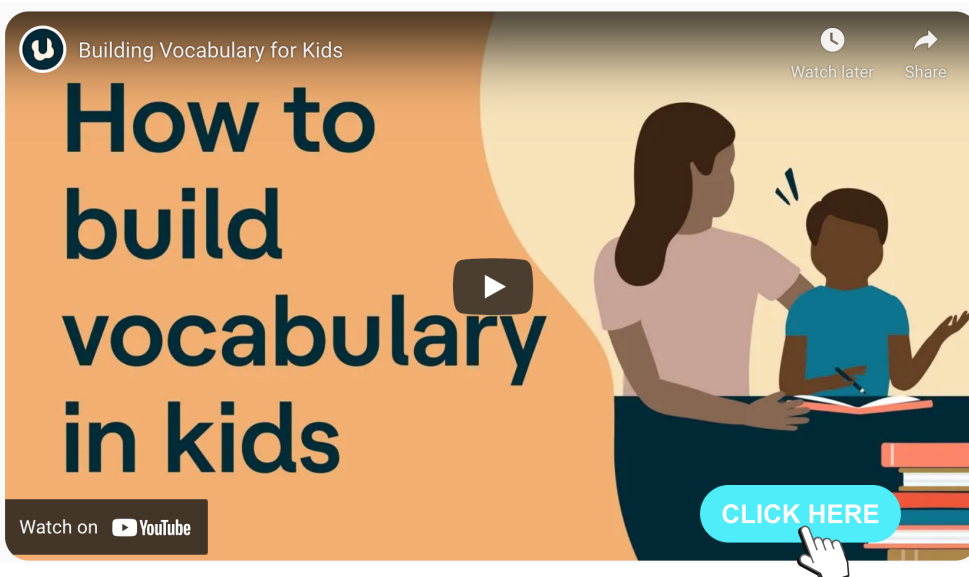


Escanee o haga clic para obtener una lista de cognados inglés-español.

Here is an easy way all parents can help boost their child's vocabulary! Audiobooks or books on tape are excellent ways students can hear and see a word in context at the same time. Students will pick up the meaning of new words and also hear examples of the rhythm of the language, intonation, and oral fluency.

Cardholders at the **Central Arkansas Library System** and other Arkansas libraries may check out audiobooks and listen to them on their favorite mobile device. Login using your library card number and PIN. You will also find e-books available for check out in Overdrive and the Libby app.

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Click here for



ways to boost
your
child's
vocabulary!

Preschool Vocabulary Fun

Young children love to hear and learn new words. Reading to and talking with your preschool student is a great way to help them become familiar with new words!




Try this activity on your next nature walk. Ask your preschooler to go on an **exploration**, or search, to find a pinecone. Always give your student a simple, easy-to-understand definition each time you introduce an unknown vocabulary word.

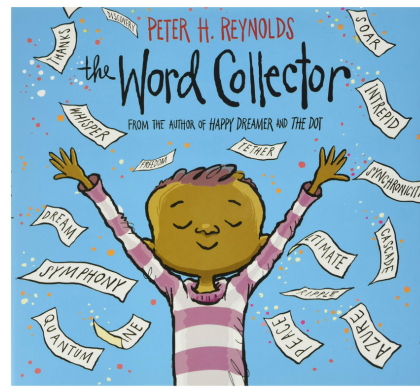


At home, use this example conversation to help introduce lots of fun new words while engaging in this science experiment using the pinecone.

*"Let's do an **experiment** or test. We are going to **submerge** our pinecone in water. Submerge means to completely cover. Then, we will **observe**, or look closely, to see what happens."*



After a few hours, look at the pinecone and ask your child what she notices or observes. The pinecone will look very different. Ask your child to **record**, or write down, an observation by writing or drawing the differences noticed. Tell your child that it is now time to let the pinecone **dehydrate**, or dry out. After a day or two, the pinecone will begin to open again. What an exciting way to incorporate new words and enjoy a fun nature activity!



The Word Collector would make a great stocking stuffer and inspire children to collect words they hear! In this extraordinary new tale from Peter H. Reynolds, Jerome discovers the magic of the words all around him -- short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllabic words that sound like little songs. Jerome learns how powerful words can be and in the end, he shares his collection with others.



Feast on Fun Words



**This month,
don't say eat!
Replace that
boring verb
with one of
these options:**

November is always a time when families and friends gather to remember all the things for which they are thankful. It is also a month that families spend a lot of time thinking about and preparing Thanksgiving meals. This month, while in the supermarket, use the Vocabulary Hunt activity below with your student. Explain what the different adjectives mean, find examples of each, and encourage your child to use these words in their daily conversations!



**nibble
consume
chew
inhale
cram
devour
dine
feast
feed
slurp
gorge
graze**

November Vocabulary Challenge Checklist



This month is full of opportunities to help your children increase their vocabulary. Learn and use the words below. When you see or hear examples of these words, check them off! Challenge your family to listen for and use them all!



noun: the leaves of one or more plants



Ex. The trees in the park have colorful foliage.



noun: a former member of the armed services



veteran

Ex. My dad is an Army veteran and served our country for 20 years.



adjective: a tree or shrub that sheds its leaves annually



deciduous

Ex. Look at all the deciduous trees losing their leaves!



noun: the flying or operating of aircraft



aviation

Ex. November is Aviation History Month.



noun: a small piece or amount of food; a mouthful



morsel

Ex. Eat each and every morsel on your Thanksgiving plate.

Vocabulary Ladder Answers: fall, call, walk, chalk, chart, charm, cheat, heat, heal, real, read, lead, leaf



Vocabulary Ladder

Climb the ladder using the definitions and clues on the side to figure out the word. Start at "fall" and see how far you can climb the ladder!



Verb

To guide someone or something along a way
Change 1 letter

Adjective

Actually existing; not imagined or supposed
Change 1 letter

Verb

To make warm or hot
Delete 1 letter



Noun

A small ornament worn on a necklace or bracelet
Change 1 letter



Noun

A soft, white, porous sedimentary carbonate rock
Add 1 letter and change 1 letter

Verb

To command or request to come
Change 1 letter



leaf

fall

Noun

A lateral outgrowth from a plant stem that is typically flat

Change 1 letter



Verb

To utter aloud printed or written words

Change 1 letter



Verb

To make well again or to restore to health

Change 1 letter



Noun

A person who behaves dishonestly in order to gain an advantage

Change 3 letters



Noun

Information in the form of a table, graph, or diagram

Change 2 letters



Verb

An act of traveling or an excursion on foot

Change 2 letters



Start

answers