

Power-Up *menu of word-learning strategies*

WORD
POWER

Meaning in Context

- Think of a personal definition.
- Define the word, in context.
- Think of other meanings of the word.
- Explore concrete and abstract meanings.
- Try the word out in a new sentence.
- Think about the function of the word (grammar).
- Explore the impact of style on word choice (e.g. formal vs. informal; audience, purpose, form)



Etymology

- Investigate how the spelling, meaning and pronunciation of words have changed over time.
- Uncover the cultural, historical, social or religious uses of words for different purposes.
- Discuss words borrowed into English from other languages and other connections (e.g. cognates).
- Explore word history (e.g. Latin, Greek influences).
- Celebrate other languages & cultures in school.



Morphology

- Explore how word parts can be connected across different words (morphemes.)
- Find connected roots within word families.
- Think about how prefixes affect word meaning.
- Explore how suffixes can affect the spelling of root words.
- Investigate how suffixes can alter the grammatical function of words (inflections, word class).
- Explore compound words (including hyphenation).
- Explore and connect words with apostrophes (for both contraction and possession).



Phonology

- Segment and blend phonemes and syllables.
- Listen for shared sounds between words (e.g. alliteration, assonance, rhyme).
- Say and repeat new words out loud to build auditory memory.
- Think carefully about articulation and emphasis of sounds, syllables and whole words.
- Develop reading fluency by focusing on accuracy, appropriate speed and expression (prosody).
- Orally rehearse ideas before and during writing.



Orthography

- Look for shared patterns in words.
- Draw on a range of strategies to spell (e.g. ear, eye, hand, brain, analogy, phonics).
- Recognise which parts/ patterns of new words are 'tricky' to spell to mentally map in visual memory.
- Link the visual features of new words to known words (e.g. letter strings, alternative graphemes, smaller words within words).
- Explore homophones (spelling and meaning).
- Use spelling knowledge to proofread and edit.



Graphology

- Build hand strength and pencil grip.
- Write new words to build visual memory.
- Practise accurate and consistent letter formation.
- Write new words with correct spacing and positioning to ensure good presentation.
- Build speed and accuracy by writing with a fluent and consistent handwriting style.



Connections

- Build connections between words contained in your mental library.
- Think of how words are connected (e.g. semantic groups, schemas, categories, themes).
- Connect synonyms (similar meaning) and antonyms (opposite meaning) with word webs.
- Classify and group related words to support communication for a specific purpose..
- Explore how words are used across subjects.



Personal Links

- Make a personal connection.
- Collect new words from reading to discuss.
- Ask questions to explore word meaning.
- Discuss new words with others to share personal connections (e.g. This word reminds me of...; It makes me think about... because...).
- Use inference and prediction skills to investigate the hidden meanings of words in different contexts.
- Draw or act out new words to refine meaning and clarify personal links.

