

# Keith Speaking Academy

## Live Lesson Notes

# Learning Vocabulary 1



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### TODAY'S RIDDLE

What word begins and ends with an E but only has one letter?  
Answer: Envelope.

## Some useful Links

### **Collocation Dictionary**

[www.ozdic.com](http://www.ozdic.com)

### **Find a word in a phrase**

[www.fraze.it](http://www.fraze.it)

### **Dictionaries**

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>

### **British Council resources**

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary>

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<https://takeielts.net/the-path-to-success-in-the-ielts-test/>

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# How to learn Vocabulary

Different people learn in different ways

There is no **one best** way

The way you learn vocabulary also depends on,

- your personality (*are you systematic, artistic, a rule-lover....?*)
- your level
- your mood

My suggestion is be **eclectic** - meaning, chose a variety of different methods.

## **Remember** -

It takes time to learn or know a word...

...in the same way it takes time to get to know your boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife!

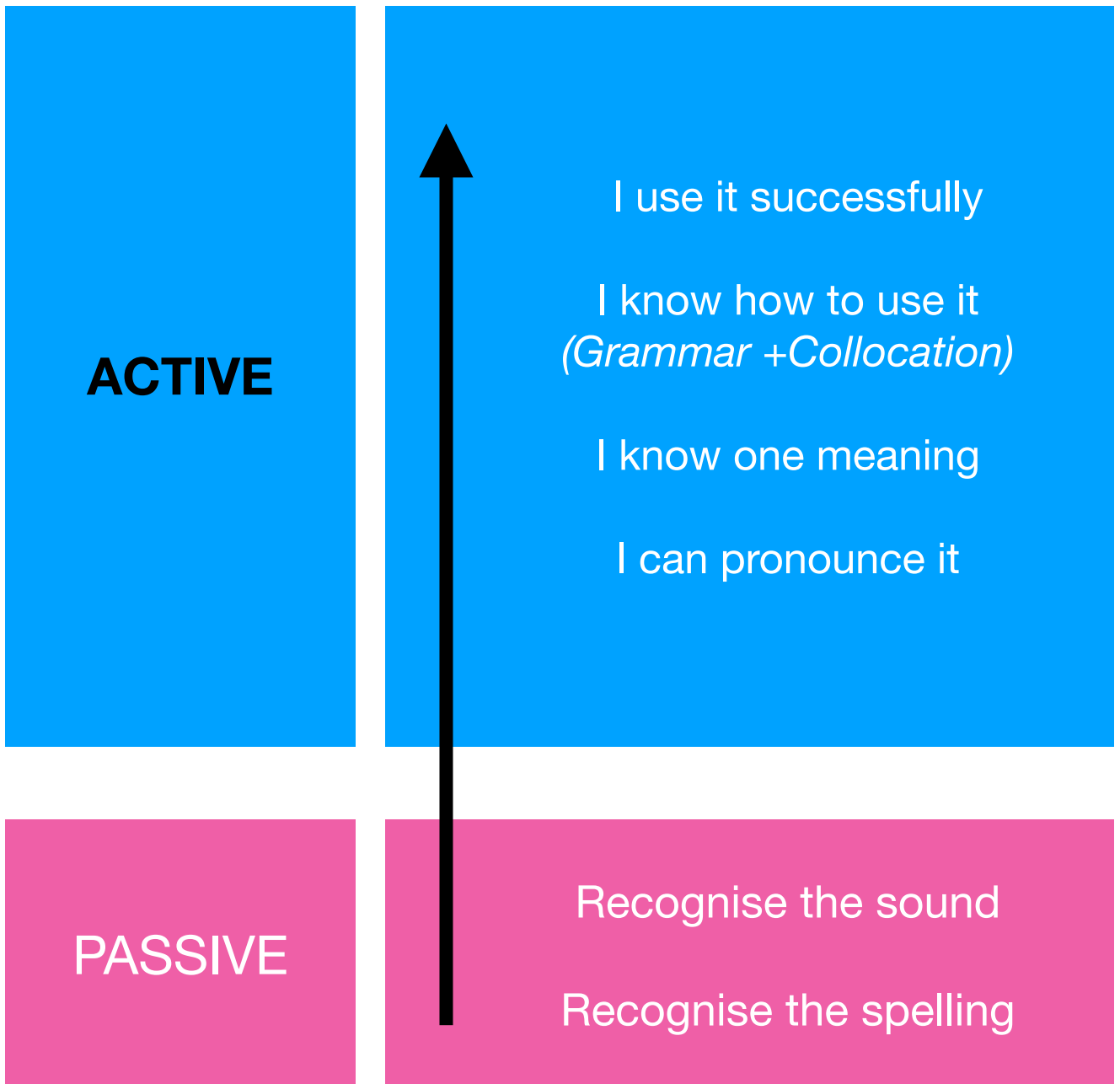
Even after years of studying English, you will find out new things about words that you thought you knew well.

For example, you may know the word 'milk' as a noun, a kind of drink.

Then later in your studies, you discover it is also a verb 'to milk a cow'.

Maybe a year later, you then discover it has an idiomatic meaning to - 'I'm going to milk this opportunity' - take as much from it as possible.

# What do we mean by 'knowing' a word?



# Tips

## 1. Learn words in context

It is much better to learn words in **context**, rather than just reading a list of words.

This is because the **context shows you how to use the word**.

Find context in a variety of texts (audio, video, written)

As you read or listen, identify new / interesting / important words or phrases.

Some useful sources include (thanks to all contributions from students)

Rock n Roll English  
Discover Channel  
BBC - 6 minutes  
The Economist  
Ted Talks  
National Geographic  
ABC News Australia  
Friends (the sitcom)  
How I Met Your Mother (the sitcom)  
Friday Night Comedy (BBC podcast)  
Luke's English Podcast  
Easy English (YT channel)  
Harry Potter (books)  
Sapiens: A brief history of humankind (book)  
NPR one (National Public Radio USA)  
Guardian (newspaper)  
Engvid (YT channel)  
Bloomberg  
CNN News  
Collocations in USE (reference book)  
Culips English Podcast  
Spotlight English  
Voice of America (VOA)  
History Channel  
The Ellen Show (YT channel)  
In Fluency (Podcast)  
AllearsEnglish (podcast)

Research tells us in order to start learning a word, we need to see it in at least **4 different contexts**.

So if you are reading about a topic, (for example technology and A.I.), you also want to look for a video and an audio on exactly the same topic.

For example,

I was reading an article about AI being used for a machine that can debate against humans.

I then went on Youtube and looked for a video on exactly the same topic, searching for 'Artificial intelligence debater project IBM'.

Next, I looked in my Apple Store for a podcast on this same topic. Searching for 'Science AI', I found a related series and episode.

### **Written article**

<https://newsela.com/read/ibm-robot-debate/id/44458/>

### **Video YT**

<https://youtu.be/naQujxmg9gg>

### **Podcast**

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/audio/2018/jan/10/questioning-ai-what-kind-of-intelligence-will-we-create-science-weekly-podcast>

## 2. Learn vocabulary by theme or topic

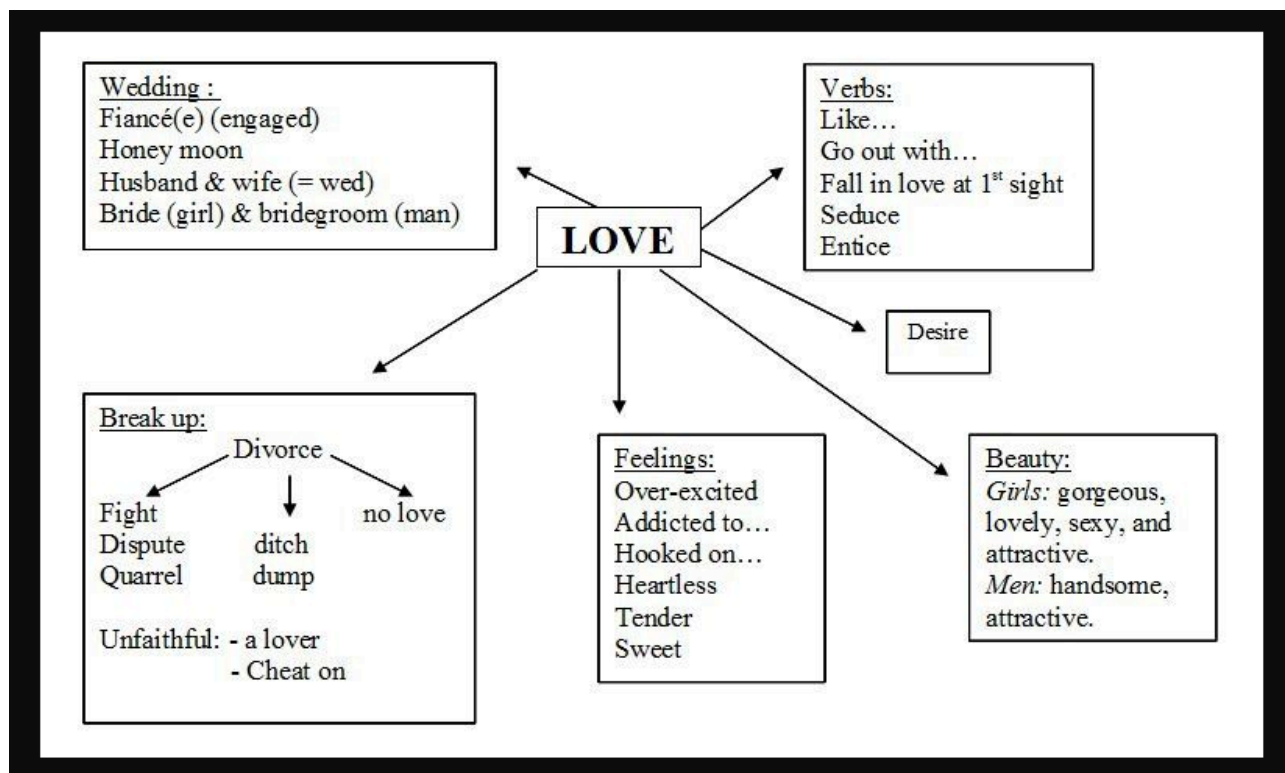
By learning and recording vocabulary by topic or theme, we are able to **make connections** between words and so **better remember** them.

When we 'learn' a new word, **we need to connect it to something we already know**.

Building vocabulary by topic allows us to make these essential connections.

1. We can use **Spidergrams** or **Mind Maps** to help us do this.

Here is one example, on the topic of love



Credit: English Day by Day

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## 2. Make Short stories

Use the vocabulary in your spider gram to **make short stories**

## 3. Phrasal verbs - Lists or topics?

You can try both approaches and see which works best for you.

Here are 2 examples below:

### Phrasal verbs by **Lists** - TO CUT (phrasal verbs)

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Cut off     | = interrupt someone                            |
| Cut in      | = drive in front of someone                    |
| Cut down    | = take down a tree                             |
| Cut down on | = to reduce (often something you use too much) |
| Cut up      | = cut something into smaller pieces            |

### Phrasal verbs by **Topic** (e.g. about love)

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Chat up            | = to start a conversation and flirt with s.o.   |
| Ask out            | = ask someone to go on a date                   |
| Fall out with s.o. | = to have an argument and stop speaking to s.o. |
| make up with s.o.  | = to become friends again                       |
| Break up           | = to split up                                   |



### 3. Make a note of new words

If you want to learn new words, it is a good idea to make notes.

You should note;

#### **The grammar**

(noun, verb, adjective...)

Countable or uncountable

Any preposition to use with it

#### **The meaning**

Use a dictionary. Always better to put a definition in English if possible (help you stop translating), or use images.

#### **Useful collocations**

The words that are usually used with this word

#### **A phrase using the word**

Try and make a phrase that is meaningful for you. This will help you remember it better

For example,

I was listening to a **recording** about London here

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/audio-zone/living-in-london>

I saw a new expression '**love-hate relationship**' and so I made the following notes...

I checked for collocations in [www.ozdic.com](http://www.ozdic.com)

## MY NOTES

A relationship (n.)

A love-hate relationship (adj.)  
= I love and hate something /someone

Harmonious / healthy / fragile / stable (*other adjectives that collocate*).

To have a relationship (v.)

Enjoy / build / break off (*other verbs that collocate*).

Example:

I have a good relationship with my students

Look out for Learning Vocabulary 2 ...

Coming next week!