

Keith Speaking Academy

Live Lesson Notes

Learning Vocabulary 2

5 more useful Tips



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IELTS Speaking
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TODAY'S RIDDLE

I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

Answer:Seven

Some useful Links

Collocation Dictionary

www.ozdic.com

Great website and tool for learning vocabulary

<https://quizlet.com/>

Get a complete Mock IELTS Test.

Use the CODE: **keith10** to get a 10% **discount**.

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

Find a teacher so you can start practicing all the language you are learning here.

<https://promos.italki.com/ieltspeakingssuccess/>

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Review of tips from last lesson (Vocabulary 1)

1. Learn words in **context**
2. Learn vocabulary by **theme** or **topic**
 - Spidergrams
 - Short stories
3. Make a note of new words

A fan (n.)

A fan of...

A huge/avid/devoted fan of...

I am a huge fan of U2. I am also an armchair fan of Manchester United.

Form (noun, adjective, verb...)

Grammar of the word

Collocations

Sample phrase

More tips for learning (Vocabulary 2)

1. How to remember words

How do you remember words?

Many students do the following to learn new words: (these are all good!)

Speak it out loud

Speak it out loud practicing with the family

Use it in a sentence

Use it in conversation

Connect it to something you already know

Connect with a picture

Write it down

Write it and visualise it

Use it in an essay or a story

Use flashcards

Revise new words before going to bed

Teach it to others

Put sticky notes around the house

In addition, we can use the following techniques...

Mnemonics

1. In order to remember useful conjunctions in English, we can use the acronym **FANBOY**

For, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, and **S**o

2. To remember how to spell words we create a sentence.

For example, I often struggle with 'b-e-l-i-e-v-e'

So I use this phrase 'never *believe* a *lie*'

3. To remember a new word like '*snorkelling*' I make sound associations.



I imagine a man snorkelling, but he fell asleep and died.

He '*snores*' (when asleep) and it is '*killing*' him.

The Mind Palace

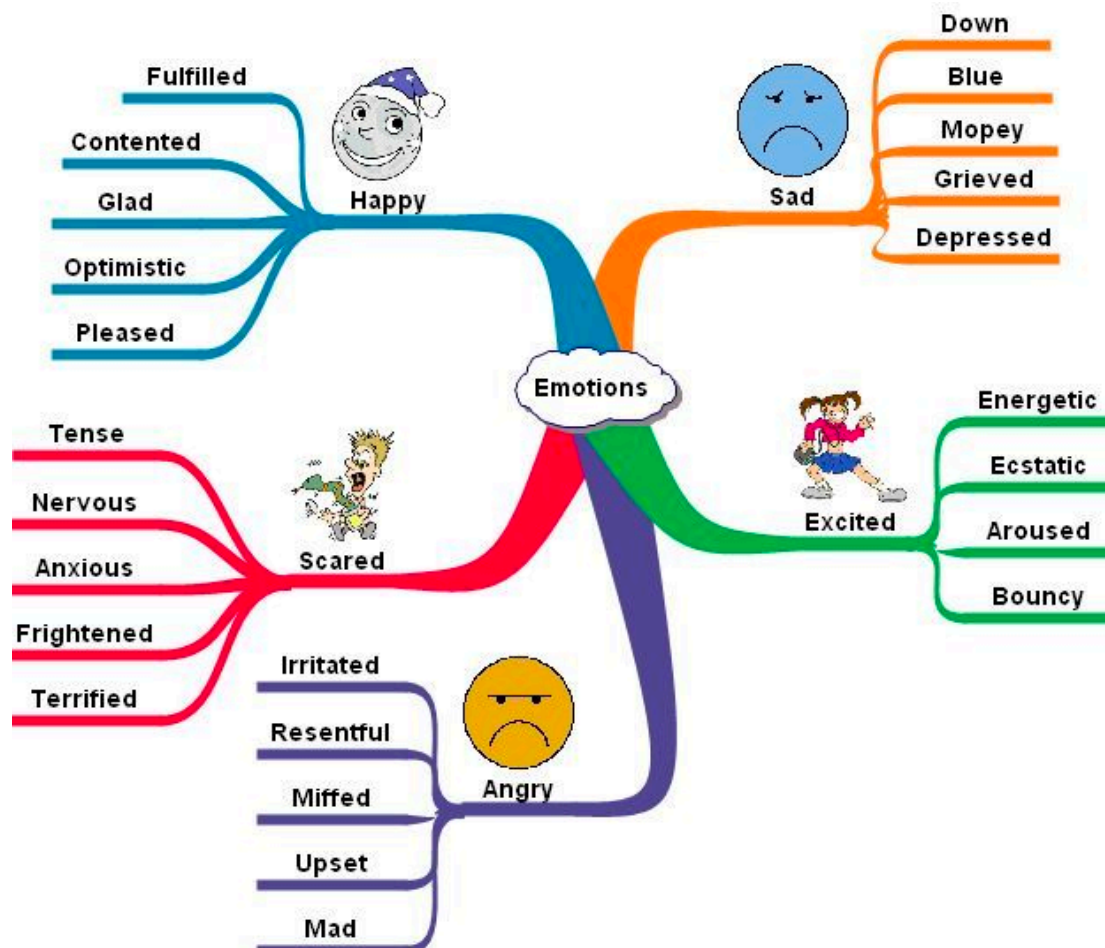
See this being used by **Sherlock Holmes** here <https://youtu.be/0FSKTndbwVo>

So, here you imagine a house with many rooms.

You visualise each room and you 'put' a new word (from your word list) into each room.

Then you practice visiting each room and 'collecting' (repeating out loud) the word there.

Mind Maps



2. Focus on activating your passive vocabulary

Our vocabulary consists of

- 1) **New** words (*we don't even know yet*)
- 2) **Passive** words (*we recognise, but can't use yet*)
- 3) **Active** words (*we can use well*)

When we learn words, they pass from one stage to another (new to passive to active).

It takes time to become active, and so for you to be confident in using them.

Many students focus on just learning **new** and complicated **vocabulary**.

Usually, because they think this is needed to get a high score in IELTS speaking.

The problem is, when you start learning new, fancy words - they will be passive knowledge for some time.

Until you know how to use them effectively (i.e. they have become part of your active knowledge) - it is better not to use them in the test.

As a student, of course, you want to learn some new words, but

you should focus most of your time of trying to activate your passive words.

Why?

Because...

- 1) you are already familiar with the word (like a familiar face at a party)
- 2) it will become active *more quickly*
- 3) in the IELTS test you should mainly be using active vocabulary, otherwise you will make lots of mistakes (giving you a low score in Vocabulary)



So, as you can see in the diagram, spend more time, practicing passive vocabulary and making it active.

3. How to activate vocabulary

Juggle

Imagine a new word is a ball.

You need to practice throwing it around, until you are comfortable with it.

That means, using it in short simple phrases, until you can use it effectively.

Lets take an **imaginary** word (this is not a real word)

To **sackle** = to meet (*for fun*)

*We can see the **meaning** = to meet*

*We can see the **use** = describes meeting someone to do a fun activity*

I **sackled** into my friend yesterday

*We can see the **grammar** of the word = it is **regular** in the past, and takes the **preposition** 'into'*

Now let's **juggle**

Make a simple phrase with this word in

- 1) Present tense
- 2) Past tense
- 3) Present perfect tense

For example...

I like to sackle

I often sackle into friends

I usually sackle into friends on the weekend

Yesterday I sackled

Yesterday I sackled into Tom

Last week I sackled into some college mates

I have not sackled much lately

I have never sackled at home

I haven't sackled into Sarah for ages

Can you see what we are doing?

We are practicing the **pronunciation** and **use** of the word

By making sentences that are true, we are also **engaging** our brain in learning these words.

We are also **practicing** our **basic grammar** skills!

We can make simple phrases or more complex ones.

3. Put word lists into 'groups'

Take one of your word lists (for example these words on the topic of food).

White bread (n.)

Fresh Fruit (n.)

Sliced Ham (n.)

Cheese (n.)

Pizza (n.)

Olive Oil (n.)

Fish (n.)

Put them into a **group**.

For example, things that you like / don't like

Speak out simple phrases, for example,

I like **fresh fruit**

I really like **sliced ham**

I quite like **cheese**

I love **pizza**

I am not so fond of **white bread**

Other groups might be,

- Sweet / savoury
- Good for you / bad for you
- Fresh / processed

Depending on the topic, you can create different groups.

4. Learn collocations

When learning new words, we don't just want to learn individual words.

You want to know how to use it, so you should always learn **collocations**

Collocations are words that are usually used together

For example,

We say,

White wine (NOT yellow wine)

Black tea (NOT red tea)

Heavy rain (NOT big rain)

Do Yoga (NOT make yoga)

So when we are practicing answering IELTS questions like the one below, we can first think of one word answers, but then start to brainstorm collocations.

What is the most important thing for a successful city?

Jobs

Pollution

Safet

Using collocations....

Job creation

Job market

Job opportunities

Job security

Air pollution

Water pollution

We need to combat pollution

Public safety

If you are not sure which words are collocations, you can use a collocation dictionary like Ozdic.

www.ozdic.com

Don't try to learn all the collocations at once.

There are too many.

Just choose one or two.

5. Test yourself

It is so important to test yourself.

Test the new words you have been learning.

This **challenges** you, **engages** your brain, and is a **powerful** way to **review** words, and also learn them **more deeply**.

There is a lot of research on the power of assessment (tests) for learning.

This is worth understanding if you are a teacher

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0191491X11000149>

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/assessment-learning>

So how can you test yourself?

Cover and test

- Take a list of words with definitions
- Cover the words
- Read the definition then say the word aloud
- Check your answer

Write a test

- Make a test, maybe Multiple Choice
- Wait one day
- Test yourself

Use your family

- Get a member of your family to test you

Use flashcard tests

QUIZLET is a great source of flashcards, or you can make your own.

Then you can try, learning, games, tests....and other features.

<https://quizlet.com/>