

# HOW TO IMPROVE VOCABULARY



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# I- LEARN THE ROOTS OF WORDS

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- To build a strong foundation for your vocabulary, it's helpful to understand the roots of words. Many words have a common root and a prefix or suffix that helps you determine what the meaning might be. For example, when a word includes the root “duc,” a Latin word that means “to make or lead,” you can assume that the root refers to that Latin definition. You'll see this root in words like “produce” or “deduce.”

**root word:**  
a word or word part that forms the basis of new words through the addition of prefixes and suffixes

ROOT	MEANING	EXAMPLE
arbor	tree	arboreal
cred	believe	credible
script	to write	scripture
sen	old	senior





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- Root Word – Mal – a Latin word, Meaning – bad or evil.
- English words having ‘mal’ root word –
- Malignment – defame something badly
- Malice – evil intention
- Maltreat. – Treat someone/something badly
- Malfunction – working badly
- Malpractice – improper, illegal, or negligent professional behavior
- Maleficent – Someone who deliberately try causing harm to someone
- \*All the words having ‘mal’ root word gives a negative connotation.



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- Philia – a Greek word, Meaning – to Love.
- English word with root word ‘Philia’-
- Bibliophile – the one who loves books
- Philologist – word lover who is a scholar of language
- Philanthropist – is a person who loves mankind.
- Philosopher – A person who loves wisdom



So we can see all the words with root words are associated with love. City of Philadelphia actually means the city of brotherly love.



## 2- KEEP A JOURNAL

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- Keep a notebook and write down each word that you learn every day.
- If you learn a new word while you were watching a movie it might be easier to remember because you can remember the scene and remember it from context of the scene.







# 3- USE A THESAURUS



- A thesaurus is a book that lists words or phrases that mean the same thing or almost the same thing—a book of synonyms.

**significant**   [See definition of significant on Dictionary.com](#)

ingful *adj.* important, critical

**SYNONYMS FOR significant**   **Compare Synonyms**

big	considerable	noteworthy	carrying a lot of weight	weighty
big-deal	meaningful	serious	heavy	
big-wheel	momentous	substantial	material	
consequential	notable	vital		

See also synonyms for: **significantly**



## 4- MAKE WORD ASSOCIATIONS

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- Studies have proven that our brains remember a lot more if the new information we learn is linked to information we already have stored in our minds. It helps to make a connection between the new vocabulary and a context or a picture. However, be mindful of false friends. False friends are words from your native language that sound almost exactly the same as the new vocabulary in English but, in reality, have a different meaning.
- If you are aware of the false friend, you can make a funny association between the two words. For example, 'pregnant' in Spanish is 'embarazada' which is very close to the English word 'embarrassed.' Making an association between these words based on their definitions would be a mistake.



# 5- READING NEWSPAPERS, BLOGS, BOOKS, AND MAGAZINES

- Improving reading habits can be really helpful to improve our vocabulary. If it is a book out of your preferred genres, a magazine, or a good newspaper, then you will come across various new words. In case you are unaware of the meaning of the words, you can refer to a dictionary and find the meaning. Then you can use the words in various sentences for a better understanding of the word.







# 6- LISTEN TO ENGLISH SOURCES

- As you learn new vocabulary, it's important to understand how to pronounce each word. Many online dictionaries have sound recordings to help you with individual words. Podcasts can help you hear words with appropriate context, and many podcast apps have speed settings so that you can slow down the speech to hear each word more clearly.
- You might also learn new vocabulary by watching movies or tutorials and adding closed captions, which show you the spelling of each word. Additionally, you may search for professional conference recordings or excerpts from different geographic areas to hear how people with different accents pronounce terms in your field.




Dictionary  
Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)

 **inspire**

 [Learn to pronounce](#)

*verb*

1. fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.  
"his philosophy inspired a later generation of environmentalists"

**Similar:** [stimulate](#) [motivate](#) [cause](#) [incline](#) [persuade](#) [encourage](#) 

2. breathe in (air); inhale.  
"they can expand their lungs and inspire enough gas to satisfy oxygen requirements"

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