



Boost your vocabulary



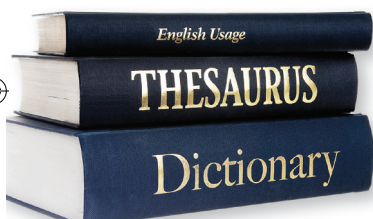
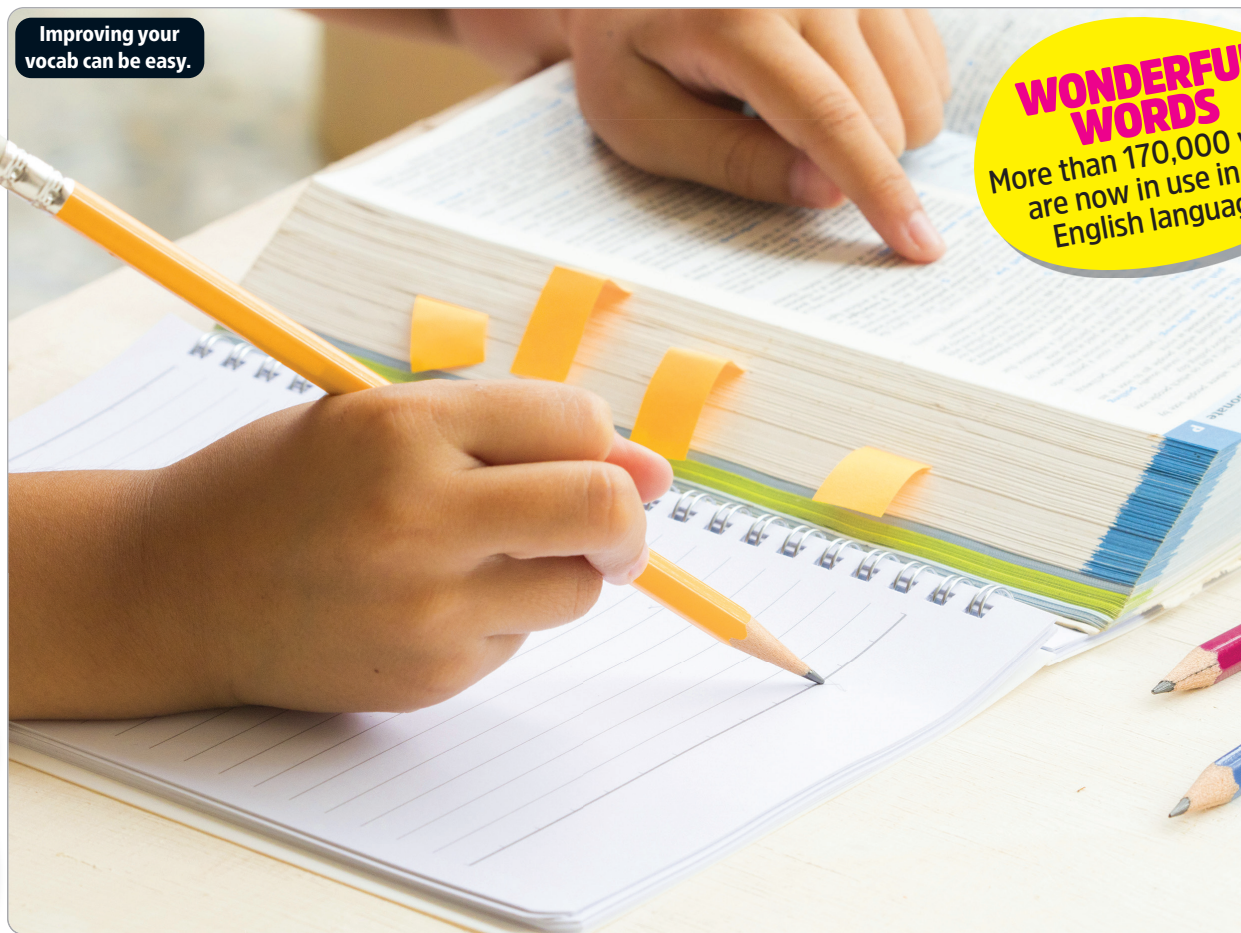
Holly King-Mand

Holly King-Mand is the nation's favourite English

teacher. Thousands of young people joined her online lessons during lockdown. She enjoys bringing grammar to life and sharing her love of learning. Here, she reveals how to extend your vocabulary and use an interesting range of words in your speaking and writing. You can find more tips at hollyclassroom.com

Improving your vocab can be easy.

WONDERFUL WORDS
More than 170,000 words are now in use in the English language.



1 What is vocabulary?

The definition of vocabulary is "all the words a person knows or uses, or all of the words of a language".

An average 10-year-old will know 20,000 words and this rises to an average of 50,000 by the time they are 12. That's a lot of words! Everyone has two types of vocabulary: active vocabulary is the words you use in your speaking and writing. Passive vocabulary is the words you know but don't (yet) use.



2 The importance of synonyms

A synonym is a word that has a similar meaning to another. For example, synonyms for "cold" could be icy, freezing,

gelid, bitter or frigid. If you find you are using boring words, get out a thesaurus and look for interesting synonyms you can use in its place. This is also a great technique for redrafting your creative writing, too.

3 Dull words do nothing

It's easy to use simple, dull vocabulary such as "amazing" and "big". These words are quite limiting when it comes to

communicating what you mean. For example, "nice" can describe your dinner and your homework, but "succulent" and "meticulous" are more specific and tell us more about your dinner and your homework.



ways to use words you know and improves your confidence with a wider range of vocabulary. If you find a new word that you do not know, look up its meaning in a dictionary. You can keep a dictionary on your bedside table for when you read at bedtime; don't miss a chance to extend your vocabulary.



4 Read to succeed

Reading is the No. 1 way to improve your vocabulary. The process of reading teaches you new words, different

5 Now you're talking

A great way to improve your vocabulary and use the new words you have discovered is to use them in conversation. It's useful to practise what you've learned to really embed it into your everyday vocabulary. Try to make sure that what you have learned in your passive vocabulary makes its way over to your active vocabulary.



are listening to them but that you are focused on improving your own vocabulary. And that's a smart thing to be focused on.



6 Ask the question!

When you hear someone use a word you aren't familiar with, don't forget to ask them what it means. It takes just a few seconds and not only shows that you

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