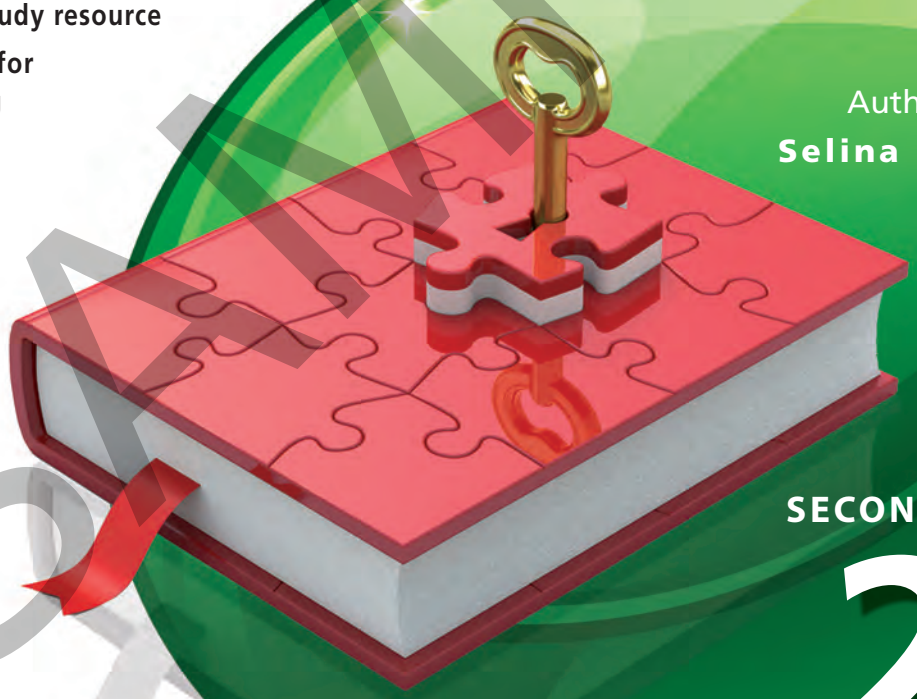
# Vocabulary
## & Word Study

Develops Word Awareness and Builds Vocabulary

- ★ Varied exercises to aid learning
- ★ 12 Appendixes as an additional study resource
- ★ Answer Key for self-checking



Author:
**Selina Ho** M.A.

SECONDARY

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Secondary 2
**Vocabulary and Word Study**

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# Preface

**Vocabulary and Word Study** is a secondary level series of three books that aims to engage students in studying the various aspects of vocabulary. By working through the ample and varied exercises, students will also build up an extensive repertoire of words that will prove helpful when they tackle comprehension passages or write compositions.

A wide ranging set of topics is covered in Book 2: synonyms, antonyms, compound words, word roots, prefixes, suffixes, word forms, homonyms and homophones, idioms, commonly confused words, phrasal verbs, binomial pairs, denotation/connotation and British English vs American English vocabulary. In each unit, clear explanations precede the exercises which are specially designed to help students assimilate the concepts dealt with. Revision exercises are also set to consolidate the learning in the earlier units.

The appendices, which include word lists covering various aspects of vocabulary, provide a useful and valuable resource for future reference by students.

It is hoped that the book will enrich students' understanding of vocabulary and motivate them to learn and discover a great deal more about words, their features and associations.

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Unit 1

# Tips for Building Vocabulary

One of the ways to improve your reading and writing skills is to build a wide vocabulary. Knowing more words helps you to grasp the meaning of what you read, and to find the most precise words to communicate your ideas. Hence, it pays to expand your vocabulary, to increase your knowledge about words and their relationships with other words, and to learn how to use them more correctly.

## Strategies in building vocabulary

### 1. Read, read, read

By reading widely, you will encounter new words and learn their meanings in context. Read novels that you enjoy as well as non-fiction books on a wide variety of topics. Newspapers, journals and magazines are also good reading sources. Your vocabulary will also improve if you read labels on cans and bottles, advertisements, notices and signs.

### 2. Using context

When you encounter an unfamiliar word in your reading, you can use context clues to make intelligent guesses at its meaning. From the words that surround the new word, you can extract clues to help you infer what it means. "Guessing" words in this way will work better if you are reading a text that already contains many familiar words.

### 3. Using the dictionary

A good dictionary will contain clear definitions, sample sentences and grammatical explanations as well. When you look up a word in your dictionary, study each entry carefully to obtain all the necessary information about the word. Choose the most appropriate meaning that suits the context of the word.

### 4. Begin a vocabulary notebook

List all new words in a notebook. Whenever you come across an unfamiliar word, try to work out its meaning from the context, then look the word up in the dictionary and write its definition in your notebook. Also note down other important information, such as its part of speech or the root of the word (See Unit 5: Word Parts I: Roots). Lastly, write a sentence of your own using the word. This will help you better remember the word and its meaning. Aim to add 10 words each week to your notebook.

### 5. Have fun with words

Do crossword puzzles, play board games such as Scrabble and other word games in print or online. They're enjoyable and great for learning a lot of new words.

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### 6. Learn roots, prefixes and suffixes

Breaking up a word into meaningful parts will help you figure out what it means. For example, the word "synchronize" is made up of:

*syn* + *chron* + *ize*. The Greek root word "chron" means "time"; the prefix "syn-" means "with" or "together"; and "ize" is a verb-forming suffix. You can deduce that "synchronize" means "to occur at the same time as something else".

### 7. Write more

Using a new word in your writing will make it part of your active vocabulary. When writing your compositions, try to replace commonly used words with more descriptive and interesting words to bring your writing to life.

If you keep a journal, you will be able to gain more writing practice. The more you write, the more often you will be made to search for the precise words to express what you mean, and the more you will be forced to expand your vocabulary to increase the choice of words you can use.

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Unit 2

# Synonyms

Synonyms are words which have the same or nearly the same meanings. Learning synonyms will help you expand your vocabulary.

## Examples:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| imitate | – | emulate, mimic, ape |
| disobedient | – | unruly, insubordinate, defiant |
| mayhem | – | chaos, disorder, pandemonium |
| opponent | – | rival, adversary, competitor |
| sanitize | – | disinfect, sterilize, decontaminate |
| monotonous | – | tedious, boring, humdrum |
| warmth | – | affection, hospitality, cordiality |
| unfortunately | – | regrettably, unluckily, lamentably |

As no two words have the exact same meaning, you should take note how each synonym differs in meaning from the others and select the most appropriate one to suit the context of the sentence.

## Example

Here are three synonyms for the word "reasonable": sensible, economical satisfactory

While the others tried too hard to impress the interviewers, Sandy gave **sensible** answers and asked pertinent questions, which eventually landed her the job.

The Crown Lodge is an **economical** choice with its low rates and close proximity to the town centre.

The laptop's battery life is just **satisfactory** although it scores high on weight, design and its keyboard.

| Word | Meaning |
|---|---|
| sensible | showing judgement and good sense |
| economical | inexpensive |
| satisfactory | acceptable, passable |

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# Practices

## 1

**Match each word to its correct synonym. Write the letter of your answer in the space provided.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____ | **1.** flamboyant | **(a)** pacify |
| _____ | **2.** torrid | **(b)** completely |
| _____ | **3.** miniature | **(c)** modesty |
| _____ | **4.** thoroughly | **(d)** stress |
| _____ | **5.** curtail | **(e)** flawless |
| _____ | **6.** substantial | **(f)** eliminate |
| _____ | **7.** eradicate | **(g)** impending |
| _____ | **8.** emphasize | **(h)** ostentatious |
| _____ | **9.** impeccable | **(i)** sweltering |
| _____ | **10.** appease | **(j)** reduce |
| _____ | **11.** humility | **(k)** diminutive |
| _____ | **12.** imminent | **(l)** considerable |

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## 2

**Find three synonyms for each word on the left. Draw a circle around each synonym.**

**1.** versatile: adaptable erratic flexible resourceful flashy

**2.** absurd: sensible preposterous ludicrous perfect ridiculous

**3.** impede: block value obstruct sever hinder

**4.** elated: petrified ecstatic overjoyed irate euphoric

**5.** invincible: unconquerable overbearing invulnerable unbeatable bountiful

**6.** fraudulent: adequate dishonest changeable deceitful crooked

**7.** gratitude: gratefulness thankfulness honour appreciation censure

**8.** pervasive: limited prevalent widespread ubiquitous impermeable

**9.** wither: expand wilt enlarge droop fade

**10.** rancour: hatred bitterness sympathy admiration malice

**11.** coerce: discourage bully mitigate compel pressurize

**12.** fundamental: basic central trivial intrinsic secondary

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## 3

**Write the synonyms of the highlighted words in the spaces provided. Use the correct form of the words in the boxes.**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| persistent | rational | overbearing | consider | sceptical |
| disappointment | underprivileged | adjust | replacement | exceedingly |
| disabled | enraged | imprisonment | unfathomable | alternative |

1. Jack was an **extremely** shy boy who would start trembling whenever he had to speak up in class. _____
2. The princess was baffled because her pet cat would not eat or drink for some **inexplicable** reason. _____
3. Everyone was enthusiastic about the new weight loss diet but Martha remained **unconvinced** of its efficacy. _____
4. Despite countless **setbacks**, he persevered in the hope that he would one day become the most sought-after photographer in the movie industry. _____
5. People who suffer from **chronic** pain often fall into depression. _____
6. The new organisation was set up to help **disadvantaged** youths find suitable educational, training and career opportunities. _____
7. We have to find a good **substitute** for Debbie, now that she is leaving our basketball team for good. _____
8. The teacher was **irate** when she discovered that plagiarism was rampant among her students. _____
9. The struggling couple had no **option** but to give up their child for adoption. _____
10. Many birds **adapt** to changing seasonal conditions by migrating to warmer regions. _____
11. The new community hall, which is equipped with facilities and conveniences for the physically **handicapped**, opened its doors last week. _____
12. After twenty years of **incarceration**, the former manager was unable to find a suitable job and turned to social welfare services for help. _____

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13. Jim could no longer endure living under the same roof with his **domineering**, hot-tempered wife and finally filed for divorce to end the marriage. _____

14. When Fiona found herself becoming utterly bored with her job as an accounts executive, she decided that the most **logical** thing to do would be to switch to a new career. _____

15. As he was on a tight budget, Willie seriously **contemplated** buying second-hand furniture for his new apartment. _____

## 4

**A choice of synonyms is provided for each group of sentences. Choose the best word to complete each sentence by considering the context given. Remember to use the correct form of the word.**

**remedy, therapy, panacea (synonyms for "cure")**

1. She uses bird's nest as a _____ for everything and takes it whenever she falls ill.

2. A drink of lemon mixed with honey is an age-old _____ for curing a sore throat.

3. He was suffering from neck cancer and had to undergo radiation _____.

**heavyset, obese, plump (synonyms for "fat")**

4. We ate punnets of _____, juicy berries when we were holidaying in New Zealand last summer.

5. The number of _____ people around the world has doubled since 1980, reports the World Health Organisation.

6. Bobby was _____, with coarse dark hair, a thick moustache and ruddy face.

**copious, lavish, ample (synonyms for "abundant")**

7. The generous king threw a _____ feast for the royal physicians who cured him of kidney stones.

8. I took _____ notes during the fascinating lecture on the Milky Way.

9. Our balcony has _____ room for a new set of potted plants.

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**distinct, conspicuous, apparent (synonyms for "noticeable")**

**10.** With his purple hair and outlandish attire, Tommy was such a _____ presence amongst the crowds at the station that we were able to spot him from a mile away.

**11.** It was _____ from the look on the judges' faces that Constance's acting was appalling and she would never pass the audition.

**12.** He had sharp, _____ features set in a lean, delicate face charmingly framed by a crop of fine, wavy hair.

**subordinate, mediocre, subservient (synonyms for "inferior")**

**13.** My violin recital sounded almost _____ after Germaine's impressive performance.

**14.** He minded being a Corporal, in a position _____ to that of his cousin, Sergeant Marcus Lim.

**15.** The new maid was a contrast to the bold, defiant one we used to have – she was completely servile and _____ in her manner.

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# Answer Key

## Unit 2

### Practice 1

1. (h)
2. (i)
3. (k)
4. (b)
5. (j)
6. (l)
7. (f)
8. (d)
9. (e)
10. (a)
11. (c)
12. (g)

### Practice 2

1. adaptable, flexible, resourceful
2. preposterous, ludicrous, ridiculous
3. block, obstruct, hinder
4. ecstatic, overjoyed, euphoric
5. unconquerable, invulnerable, unbeatable
6. dishonest, deceitful, crooked
7. gratefulness, thankfulness, appreciation
8. prevalent, widespread, ubiquitous
9. wilt, droop, fade
10. hatred, bitterness, malice
11. bully, compel, pressurize
12. basic, central, intrinsic

### Practice 3

1. exceedingly
2. unfathomable
3. sceptical
4. disappointments
5. persistent
6. underprivileged
7. replacement
8. enraged
9. alternative
10. adjust
11. disabled
12. imprisonment
13. overbearing
14. rational
15. considered

### Practice 4

1. panacea
2. remedy
3. therapy
4. plump
5. obese
6. heavyset
7. lavish
8. copious
9. ample
10. conspicuous
11. apparent
12. distinct
13. mediocre
14. subordinate
15. subservient

## Unit 3

### Practice 1

1. (e)
2. (h)
3. (f)
4. (g)
5. (k)
6. (b)
7. (l)
8. (i)
9. (j)
10. (a)
11. (c)
12. (d)

### Practice 2

1. unknown, obscure
2. unnecessary, optional
3. reduce, compress
4. generosity, philanthropy
5. deranged, unstable
6. deplete, empty
7. erratic, irregular
8. tainted, imperfect
9. modest, humble
10. sophisticated, complex
11. amiable, pleasant
12. lack, hunger

### Practice 3

1. apprehensive
2. theoretical
3. alacrity
4. unimportant
5. impropriety
6. discourage
7. attachment
8. deference
9. introvert
10. constant
11. careful
12. suspicious
13. affable
14. emaciated
15. affirm

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